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EDITORIAL

by Helmut Braunschweiger, Editor, German Section (Translated by Tony Kisch)

Choost between you and me and the Baltic Sea, I am haffing—how are you telling it—oh, ja, zerious misgivings about ziss whole verschtinking idea about puplishing the funniest shtuff from Europe. Ziss allowing of me to compose ziss editorial, like throwing a schnauzer a cookie, only reinforces zese misgivings. I earlier stressed zer word "zerious" most sarcastically, und for ziss I am haffing zwei—er, two—shpecific reasons. I am tellink zem at you now, ja? Goot. Vee begin.

Firstly it iss because I vass giffen vot I had zen considered zer honor uff being editor of zer entire Cherman section of ziss edition of vamous National Lampoon. Zair vass, from zer beginning, a large diplomatic fly in ziss particular ointment, zat being zer existence (perhaps overlooked zese last twenty-five years by you Americans mit your hula-ing hoops und endless droves of pimply-faced, adolescent, guitar-wielding nine-day vonders) of TWO-count 'em, dummkopfs-TWO Chermanys: zer free, capitalistic Vest (vair I, thank my lucky sphincter, reside) and our esteemed neighbor to the East, a proud, autonomous nation, a country as funny as a vinter in Siberia. Ziss first point, however, iss rendered total irrelevant by zer second point, vich iss zat zair iss no contribution from any Chermany, East, Vest, or sidevays, in ziss entire issue. Ja, you, dear reader, are getting it straight from zer

horse's buttocks; zair are no satirical essays, none of your amusink iff sophomoric Voto Vunnies (vee contributed a total of eighty-seven ideas for zem), not so much as a schtinking, lousy cartoon—in short, zair iss not a single example of Teutonic titillation throughout zer entire "hep mag" you are now holding!!! Don't zese Kartoffel heads realize zat zair exists a lonk and hilarious tradition of Chermanic humor, alive und thriving vhen your Jonathan Swift vass pulling hiss Blutwurst into his father's chamberpot! Immortal chems, such as: "How do you make a Cherman chocolate cake? Virst, you occupy zer kitchen!" or "Haff you heard about zer new Cherman-Chinese food? An hour later you are hungry for power!!" or zer immortal (and absolutely not even shlightly anti-Semitic) "Haff you heard about zer new Cherman microwafe ofen, Gebhardt? It seats twelf!!!" HAHAHOHOHOHA, oh, such mirth, such pathos, such pithy oontershtandink of zer human condition! But do zese blind Lampoonmachen use any uff ziss wunderbar gemütlichkeit? Nein, as heartless und brutish as Stalin's Mongol hordes. Ach, to liff iss to suffer as does a huge inflamed boil on history's buttocks. But zair iss much more, mein friends.

Zer pipple at zer mighty National Lampoon tell me, especially der shmooth-tongued Simmons triplets, zey are telling me, "Calm down, Helmut baby, haff some schnapps, zer shtuff your jerries dreamed up vass hilarious, baby, vee all shplit our zides over ALL uff it!!" Und vot iss actually puplished effter zey haff sewn up zair shplit zides? Nossing. Zero. Zip. Not a ting from Chermany. But zey poot in a tenpage piece on Latvia, a two-bit Baltic roll of Soviet Charmin, a place vhich nobody in his right mind vould officially recognize, no less extol the dubious virtues of in zer biggest American humor magazine! While zer endless possibilities of parodying Hamburg's Reeperbahn go ignored, vee are treated to a tour of Latvia's better flush toilets (only grudgingly introduced in zer last decade, and still shunned by the majority of the superstitious Lats) and food that regularly renders liveshtock unconscious. Vhen you're lookink for laffs, do you look to Latvia? Uff course not!

I'm not squeezink zer zour grapes, mind you, but choost like your Dracknet am givink "choost zer facts, ma'am." Zer following iss meant as no slur against our beloved Cherman brothers to the East, but Vest Chermany hass been breaking her balls to please zer Americans since 1945. So vot does ziss magnificent National Lampoon do? Zey are treating zer readers to even more so-called "humor" from behind zer Iron Curtain. Big laughs, ja? "Vy did zer comrade cross zer road? Give up? To get the hell out of Russian (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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LETERS

Sirs:

Hey, did you ever notice the amazing similarity between Charles de Gaulle and Maurice Chevalier? Especially in the last few years.

The Exhumers Rue Morgue Paris, France

P.S. Come to our next gig. We're opening for the Dead.

Sirs:

Wot's all this bleedin' hoof 'n' holler about Commie Bolshie striking and whatnot? I'm proud to be a bleedin' coal miner and make less than your average Paki dung-roller. Besides, I wouldn't know what to do with meself if I didn't spit a good half-pint of blood first thing in the morning. Just ask me ol' lady if you don't believe wha' I'm telling you. Wha' haff they got to complain about now? I get three lumps of coal plus tuppence and all the black lung a chap could dream of acquiring in six lifetimes, mate. So back to work, boys, that's my plea. Would I allow me sweet little six-year-old daughter to accompany me into the pits each morning if I thought they weren't safe? Well, would 1?

> A Coal Miner Dogpoop-on-Sussex England

Sirs:

Don't listen to a word that lyin' bastard says. He buggers me mine shaft every night and then in the morning he shackles me to his ankle and drags me down to that foul pit without so much as a howdy-doo. It's hell, I'm telling ya. Oh, well, gotta run, time to simmer the morning lump.

A Coal Miner's Daughter Dogpoop-on-Sussex England

Sirs:

Listen, we don't care what stories your Valium-addled mothers are telling you. Whatever you do, stop sending us all your Wonder bread slices with the nice fluffy middle part removed, or your soggy overcooked green vegetables, or your semichewed sliced beets. Look, the war was over forty years ago. We're eating pâté now, New Worlders, so why don't you just ship your goddamn leftovers to Ethiopia. We hear they're real big on spinach and liver casserole.

The "Starving" Children of Europe Europe, Not Africa

Sirs:

I don't know why they call themselves the Green Party. They're just a bunch of fucking Reds to us.

The Brownshirts Berlin

Sirs:

At last we have been, how you say, vindicated? Jerry Lewis is the great comic genius of all time. Maybe more! His new chef d'oeuvre, Telethon, is a twenty-four-hour nonstop laugh jubilee. To you few boil-infested nonbelievers—mangez la merde!

Everybody in France France

P.S. Wait till you see the deformed midgets dance and sing.
Magnifique!

Dear Nice Young White Sons and Daughters of Wealthy American Imperialists:

Why not consider a stop in beautiful Bologna on your next trip to the Continent? You'll find the locals here friendly, cooperative, and enamored of all things American. And don't forget, we do honor the American Express card as well as all other negotiable appendages. See you in sunny Italy!

Giorgio Agoglia Secretary-General Yearning for Your Red Blood Brigade Ladies and Germs:

A funny thing happened on the way to the surface—I passed by Davy Jones's locker. What a stench! Didn't he ever hear of Lifebuoy? Guess who I bumped into the other day? Jacques Cousteau's kid. Looked a little green around the gills. Well, c'est la vie. I've heard of sleeping with the fishes, but this is ridiculous. Seriously, I got a stumper for you. What's the only kind of wood that doesn't float? Natalie. Hey—this is a tough crowd, did you all come off the Titanic?

Jack E. Leonard Atlantis Casino and Hotel Lost Continent of Atlantis

Sirs:

I am bright as bulb clean Soviet girl—I make bath twice each month no matter I need or not, and am no frighten by indoor flushing stink pot. Am twenty-three years of oldness of much round soft buttocks and A-number-one chest meat who seeks to look to find any American man (even those who like better with other men to make dobrapichka) in order for purpose of marriagemaking so that I can get at long last visa for America from cruel sturgeon-face bureaucratski at office of immigratikov. This American man, he can be cripple dwarf, have AIDS, can have (but hope not) halfinch putzki, can beat humble Soviet self and burn flesh of same with American cigarettes. ANYBODY is, how you say, funky-dorey. Have enclosing picture of unworthy Soviet, and am having dowry of four rubles, six kopecks, and 180,000 pre-World War II Polish zlotys. (These, I much scared, equal about \$2.08 American, but it all go to new husband.) Please write me much very soon. Time most important. God bless Ronald McReagan and Boychik Georgi!!!

Sophie Zchoizov Smegmastok, Latvia shithole, but zey shoot him in head first!!!" HOHOHOHAHAHO!! Funny, ja? Acktually, to be fair (zis fairness iss hard for us Krauts), zer Polish shtuff iss pretty goot, und in shpite of meinself I am finding zer same chuckling at Jugoslav material. You haff got to admire some mensch mit brass balls who vill risk a one-way ticket to Outer Mongolia choost to haff puplish zer cartoon in some Americanische magazine.

Aside from zer Commies, mit zair penchant for political cartoons disguised as art, zer readers are of course treated to a healthy dose of those funny Frogs. Zey regale us mit, among other tidbits, a wryly amusink piece entitled "1001 Reasons to Hate Americans." Zey would have typed out a few thousand more, only zey had to go rush to get zair Calvin Klein undies und tickets to zer latest Jerry Lewis festival. Und, of course, zese unwashed dogs who gave us Tintin, zer Little Prince, und most of zer known venereal diseases entertain zer readers mit some more of zair trademark cartoons.

It goes on like ziss: Spain, Norway, Belgium, Holland, England, zey are all zair, present and guffawed at. But Chermany, once mighty Chermany, vee couldn't efen make it to Britain's piece, 'Naff Guide to Sexually Irrelevant Countries." A very funny bit of shtuff, but showing us to be so irrelevant, vee cannot efen be irrelevant. Vell, vot can you do. Zey say vee haff no sense of humor, but when zer führer would put zat lampshade on hiss head, I am tellink you...Listen, I gott one more for you. Dis'll kill you. Show me a Cherman without a zense of humor und I'll show you a sour Kraut. Pretty good, nein? Auf wiedersehen.

Cover: This month's highly original and imaginative effort was photographed by R. G. Harris. Coincidentally, it is the same R. G. Harris who, a number of years ago, photographed a cover that reminded some people of this one. I don't see the comparison. That old one didn't even have a girl on it. And the background blue was much much darker. Some people will be the first ones to shout "Plagiarist!" and the last ones to know the real meaning of the word. Let's get this straight once and for all. Webster defines "plagiarize" as "...to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own." So, in the strictest sense of the word, we are certainly not plagiarists. We are, more accurately, conceptual ecologists, recycling the great ideas and words that we once had and presenting them to you as if they were new, in the hope that you'll never be smart enough to check .- P. K.



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Of course, we'd rather give you a sip of Jack Daniel's. But regrettably, the county we live in is absolutely bone dry. And even though we make a good deal of whiskey here, we are

not allowed to serve you a single drop. Still, we hope you'll have time to enjoy a complimentary glass of Miss Ruth's Lynchburg lemonade. And a sip of Mr. Jack's whiskey wherever the law is allowing.



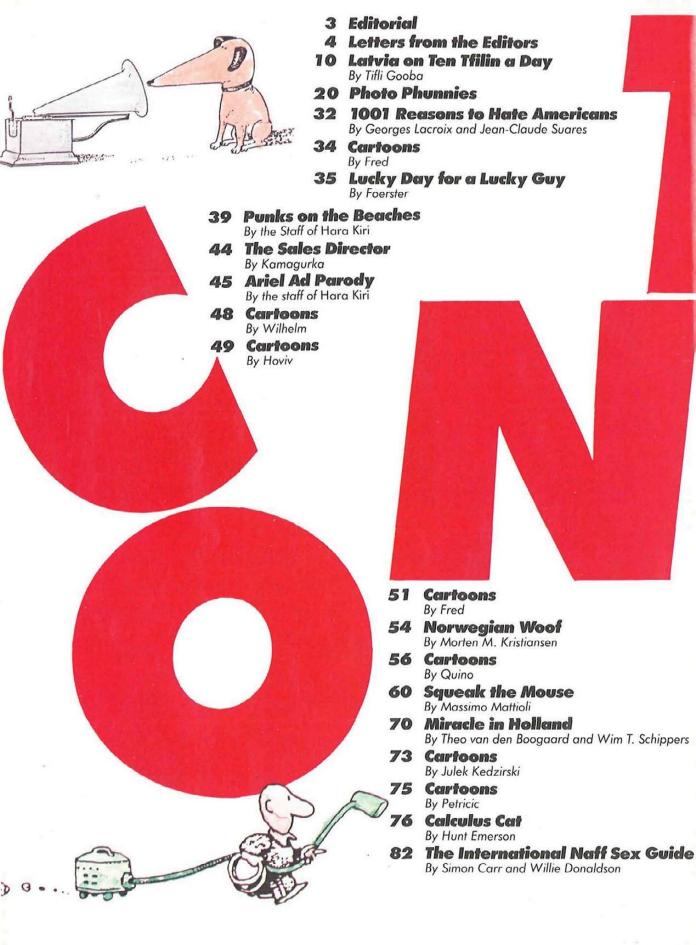
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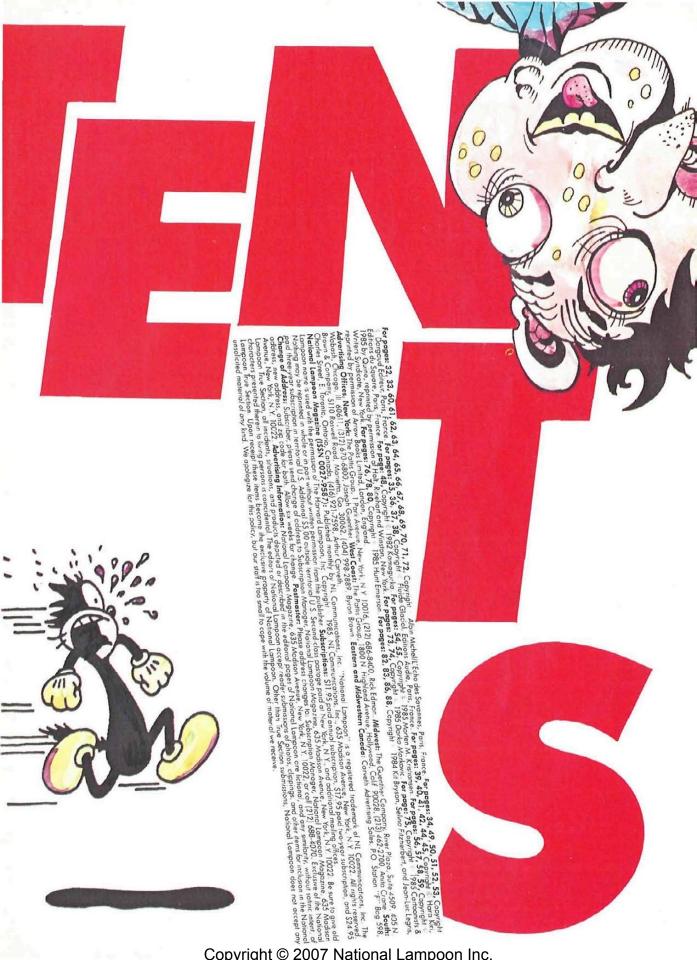
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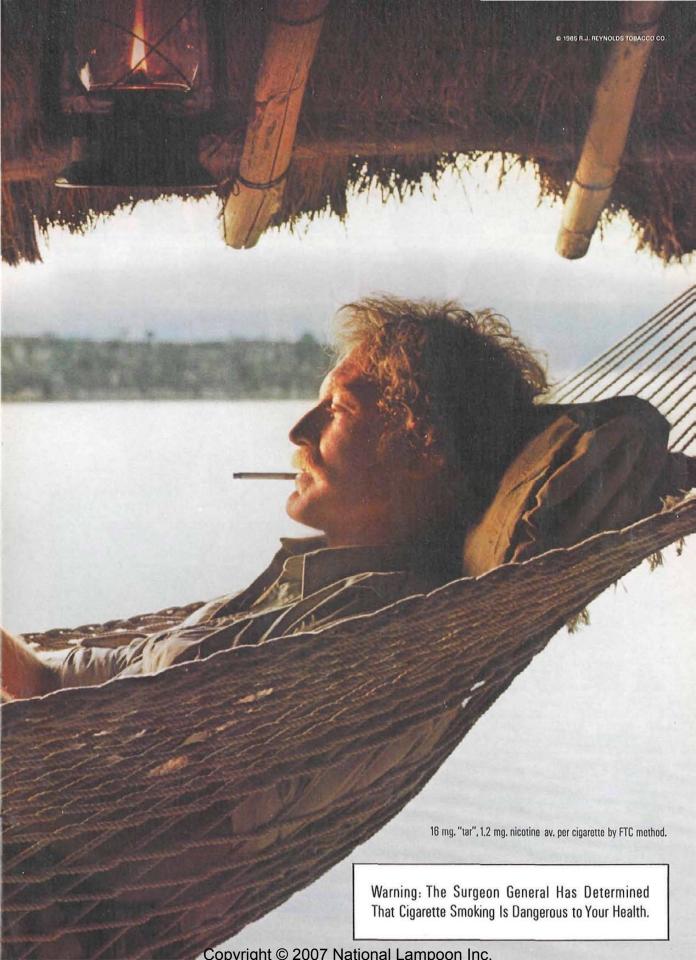
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A TRAVEL GUIDE BY TIFLI GOOBA

A BRIEF HISTORY

or many centuries no one knew of the existence of Latvia. It was just a large expanse of flat land, with a few hills and dales, a bit of farmland, and a seacoast. It was ignored by the Romans, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, and the Slavs. For a while, the Ottomans used it for storage space. Not until the thir-

teenth century did anyone see any possibilities in this plain, unassuming country. Two wandering tribes, one coming from the south, the other from the north, accidentally found themselves on this piece of land and decided to stay. The ones from the south were called Lats. The northerners were the Vians. For centuries afterward they fought bloody battles for the land, with neither side gaining any clear-cut victory.

In 1855, one man, Stasu Verecec,

had the vision and the will to unite the warring factions into one country. By that time it was easy. There were very few people left, and they were tired of the endless wars. Nevertheless, Verecec started anew with just fourteen people and almost single-handedly repopulated the country. He had sexual intercourse twelve times a day for the next fifty years and planted the seeds of what is now Latvia, bringing about the unification of the Lats and the Vians.



n 1907 he was made president of Latvia. When he died in 1914 his son-in-law, Culi Dogba, succeeded him and created the common language, the monetary system, and other reforms necessary to bring Latvia into the main currents of modern Europe.

Today Latvia is a mixture of old traditions and bold new ideas for the future. Although it is a Soviet republic, it functions in its own ruggedly individualistic way, doing exactly what it pleases, making the best out of an unexceptional, even boring environment.

THE PEOPLE

atvians are a friendly, outgoing people with a tremendous capacity for hard work, physical pain, and simple pleasures. They combine genuine childlike naiveté with keen peasant cunning. They love jokes, contests of strength (a typical Latvian pastime is the uprooting of trees, just for the fun of it), sports, and food of any kind.

Latvians have very little use for formal manners, so be forewarned about their physical habits. It is not uncommon for a Latvian to pin down an attractive woman on the street and suckle her breasts. Watch out for nose biting. Latvians think it's funny and like to take a chunk out of unsuspecting strangers. Informality is the rule. If this kind of behavior annoys you, just carry a small rolling pin and give your friendly attacker a few smart smacks on the head with it and he will understand and not bear a grudge. Latvians can be very good sports.

Most Latvians are generous to a fault and will give you the shirt off their backs, but usually in exchange for yours, which in 100 percent of the cases is a much better shirt. In fact, cigelci, the practice of stripping off shirts and offering them to foreign visitors in a trade, is now officially forbidden by the government. Try not to get involved in this kind of generosity.

The most important rule to follow in Latvia is to keep an open mind and a keen sense of adventure in everything you do. Try to remember that Latvia is not New York, Paris, Los Angeles, or Hong Kong. It is still a country that is groping for an identity and a position in the modern world. It has a lot to learn. But it also has a lot to give—if you just open your eyes and your heart.

WHAT TO PACK

The climate in Latvia is cloudy, cold, and rainy in winter and scorchingly hot in summer. There is no fall or spring. There are times when summer becomes winter and winter becomes summer, without warning. It is advisable to pack two complete wardrobes for each season. Latvians are informal dressers, even a bit sloppy at times, so don't be surprised to see many men with their trouser flies unzipped or women with sagging stockings. They just don't care. Latvians are more interested in a person's character than his clothing.

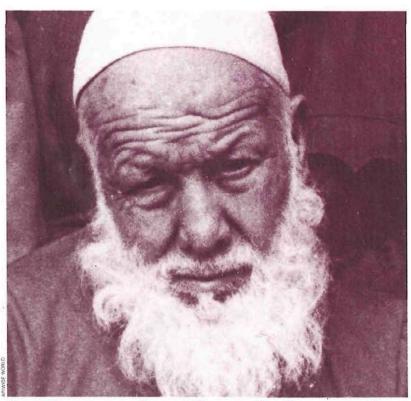
TIPPING

Tipping is officially forbidden by the government, but if you slip your Latvian porter or maid a few tfilin or even a targ, you will find them eternally grateful. Fifty tfilin will bring even greater favors, if you are in the mood.

THE MONETARY SYSTEM

The primary unit of currency in Latvia is the tfilin, which is roughly the equivalent of five cents in American money. The other units of currency are: 100 targ—1 tfilin 200 certs—1 targ 500 pilasters—1 cert 1,000 hemi—1 pilaster 5,000 toga—1 hemi

The toga and the hemi are rarely used. The tfilin and the targ are all you need for most transactions. You'll need about one hundred dollars for a three-week stay in Latvia (about 2,000 tfilin).



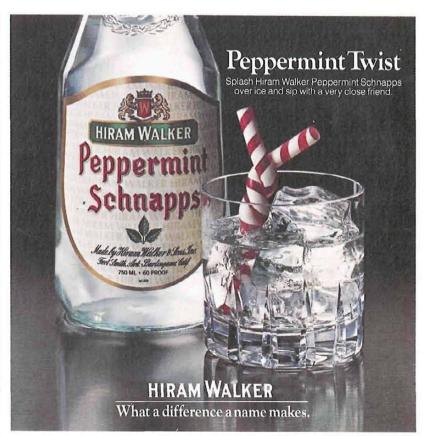
Stasu Verecec, seen here at the swearing-in ceremony in 1907. He was quite literally the father of his country after having performed 219,000-odd acts of political procreation.

LATVIAN FOOD

he most commonly consumed food in Latvia is plurn, a cheese-like substance made from the milk of the erisi, the wild ponies of the central plains. You'll find plurn in almost everything you eat. You may not think so, but ask any Latvian. Plurn is used for taste, texture, color; as a base or a thickener; as a main course or a snack. For the most part, plurn is eaten for breakfast in thick slabs on dark bread-like objects called malayasi. Plurn is also rolled in malavasi crumbs and deep-fried to a hard, crusty finish resembling cobblestones. Latvians like to bite off large chunks of deepfried plurn and chew on them all day. The strength of a Latvian's teeth is judged on how easily he can bite into a chunk of deep-fried plurn. Latvians will cheerfully offer you bites, knowing well that you'll crack your teeth. There are no professional dentists in Latvia, so be forewarned (amateur dentists practice right on the streets, repairing broken teeth with cement made out of—you guessed it—plurn).

In the north, where the temperatures often dip to one hundred below zero, Latvians like to eat the meat of the wild mink. Mink meat is highly regarded, but the fur is not, and is thrown away as if it were a bag of chicken feathers. As you would expect, wild mink has a strong gamey flavor and requires a lot of cooking. But stoves are very scarce in the north and the inhabitants must resort to the ancient cooking method of zurgli. Zurgli is done by sitting on the mink for hours, sometimes days, until the natural body heat of the sitter permeates and slow-cooks the animal to the desired brownness.

Latvians who specialize in zurgli are called vatopecs and almost always are fat, with gigantic buttocks that can accommodate seven or eight minks. Vatopecs, who can be either male or female, impart to the minks their own special body flavors, which come from the spices and marinades embedded in their cooking clothes. The women usually wear a kipnis, a smock-like affair that is steeped in sauce beforehand. The men wear their traditional omir,



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A north Latvian peasant savors the bouquet of the wild white mink before gorging himself on this traditional regional repast.

a one-legged trouser with a large spongy fabric covering the seat, which has been impregnated with a masterful blend of ingredients.

f you are fortunate enough to be invited to a Latvian home during zurgli cooking you can watch a vatopec work, for he cannot interrupt his task, even for the most basic bodily functions, nor can he eat or drink. The vatopec must concentrate solely on his slow cooking, as if he is willing the mink to be roasted by his mental faculties as well. This is where you will notice another prominent Latvian quality, the ability to endure great pain and discomfort. A good vatopec must suffer for his skills, but he is a highly regarded, sought-after member of his community.

Mink cooked zurgli-style may not satisfy certain Western tastes (it smells a bit like a well-worn running shoe), but Latvians literally eat it up. They claim that it's also a potent aphrodisiac, and to prove it they like to copulate with the crelni tree after a huge zurgli dinner. The crelni is loved by Latvians for its soft, yielding trunk, which contains a sappy substance that gives a pleasant sensation during the sex act.

If you're planning a trip to the north you owe it to yourself to try this Latvian specialty. It's a good idea to consult one of the local authorities for the recommendation of a good vatopec. Here are a few who get consistently high ratings:

In the town of Smurl, Egbve Lvovo gets five tibos (stars) for his smothered zurgli with pinecones and wild radish. Just a few miles west of Smurl, in the tiny hamlet of Dvji, is perhaps the oldest living practitioner of zurgli, Tita Nividu, a fourhundred-pound former circus performer who can cook a mink in less than an hour. Mme. Nividu prefers simple zurgli preparation with just a little basting of motor oil, vinegar, and her own little "secret spice bag." For a more elaborate traditional zurgli with all the trimmings, most experts recommend Egir Dorzoi, the flamboyant master chef of Tconka, whose showy style captivates tourists and natives alike. His nickname is "Bonjka," not surprisingly translated as "fat boy," and he likes to bounce and jiggle while sitting on his minks, claiming his



World-renowned vatopec Tita Nividu can cook a mink in less than one hour. She is seen here with the product of two hours' labor, a special well-done order.

method imparts a zestier, more pronounced flavor. He's also well aware that his peppy style is a great crowd pleaser and is not averse to a little hammy culinary choreography to please his guests.

SEAFOOD

Ithough Latvia is located along the Baltic coastline it is the only country whose waters contain no fish, a phenomenon the marine biologists cannot explain. Therefore most Latvians eat canned fish, especially chunk tuna. It will come as a pleasant surprise to discover that you can order a tuna sandwich, a tuna melt, a tuna surprise, and a tuna casserole in Latvia. They all come with generous slices of plurn.

SOUPS

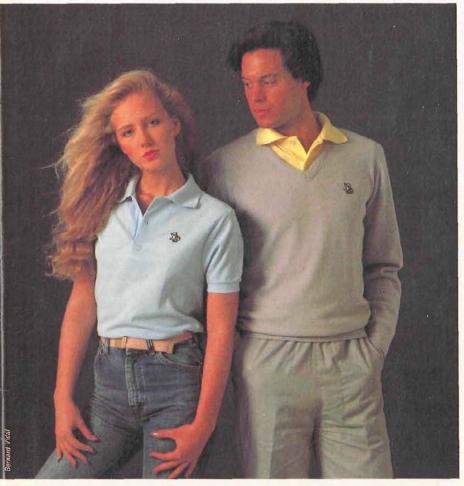
To a Latvian, a day without soup is like getting continual punches in the mouth. Soup is a staple of every red-blooded Latvian's diet. And red blood is what you'll find in almost

every Latvian soup, along with some meat and bones of indeterminate origins and some kind of vegetable and grain. The meat can be anything from dog and cat to mouse and subway bat, which Latvians prize most highly. Almost every Latvian likes to hunt this nocturnal creature, which inhabits the nooks and corners of abandoned subway stations. The meat is regarded as a delicacy similar to squab and pheasant.

Bat soup (nurli) is usually served on major holidays and is becoming rare. Some of the better hotels will prepare it on request for a large group or for a banquet. The real source of the flavor of bat soup is the tiny amount of marrow contained in the thin wing bones of the creature. The marrow is scooped out with a skilca, a long, thin rod, and it is added to hot broth along with native roots and vegetables grown in damp cellars. A big hunk of plurn is added and the mixture is stirred a few times to mix it properly. It does not have to be cooked. The ingredients are strong enough to do

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Frog logo by cartoonist Sam Gross

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the job on their own. The taste varies, but you can expect it to be salty, sweet, bitter, and oily. It also serves as a highly effective expectorant if you suffer from chest congestion.

For an everyday soup, the Latvians eat skorni, literally translated as "dark soup." Skorni is a catchall for anything that happens to be in the house—wood shavings, hair, pits, seeds, light bulbs, twigs, nutshells, etc., all simmering in a thin, watery broth containing borska, a grain that looks and tastes like sand.

RESTAURANTS

ERGO— THE LILAC HOTEL

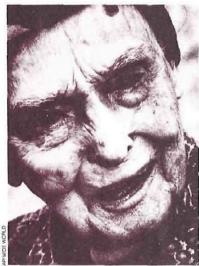
The Lilac is a small, nondescript hotel with very few amenities, similar to most hotels in Latvia, but its restaurant serves a few offbeat items. Zorc is a stew of local radishes; povlava is a slab of a meatlike substance wrapped in layers of its own fat; suviniri is the nine-foot grainy sausage carried to your table by three waiters. 12 Vcistic Avenue.

KRAS— THE BLUE PENNY

A casual, informal tavern that still serves senior citizens, one of the culinary treats of prewar capitalist Latvia. Cooking senior citizens has been outlawed by the Communists, but it still shows up in the more remote areas, where the party line is sometimes ignored. In old Latvia senior citizens suffering from incurable diseases or just plain old age could donate themselves to the best restaurants in the country so that healthy citizens could enjoy eating them. It was not considered cannibalism but rather a noble and altruistic custom. Why rot in a coffin when you can give people so much pleasure savoring your body after you die? the Latvians reasoned.

You won't find senior citizens listed on the menu of the Blue Penny because they're always on the lookout for a government inspector posing as a customer. To order it you need to know the code word. At the Blue Penny the word is reznircjekewiti. You don't have to pronounce it. The host of the restaurant will mention the word as you enter. If you







No two Latvian senior citizens look alike—or taste alike. Pictured above are today's blue plate specials at the Blue Penny.

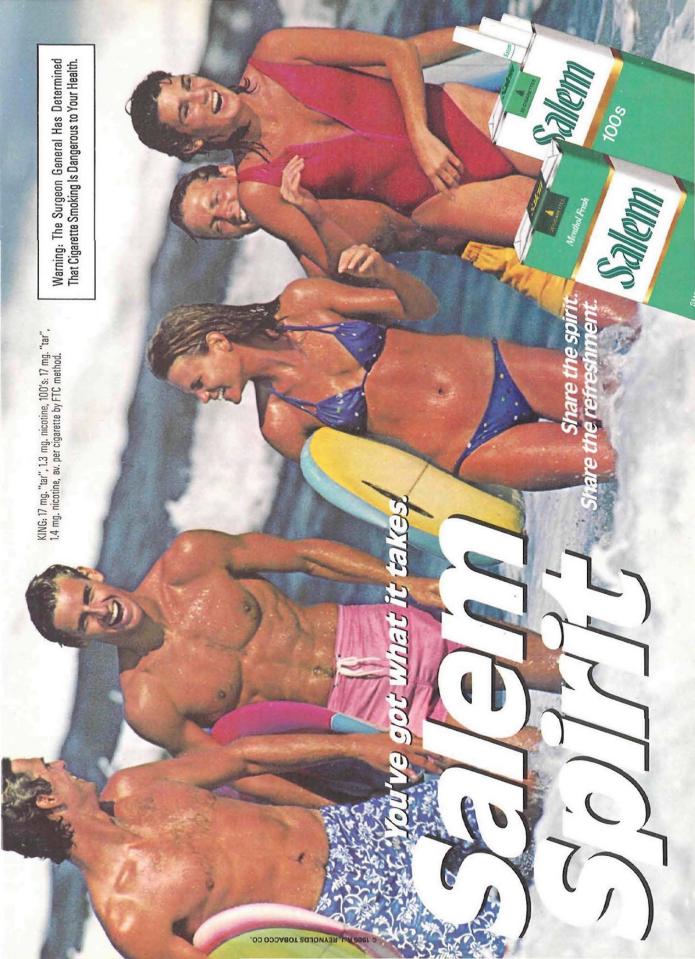
nod "yes" he will lead you to the men's room, through a doorway, and down a staircase that leads to another dining room, the room where senior citizens are served. The tavern, as you can surmise, is merely a front.

Most of the senior-citizen dishes are simply grilled over tuni logs, a native wood that imparts a cabbage-like aroma to the food. Connoisseurs of senior citizen claim it tastes like pickled butterfish or pumpkin pie. Others say it tastes more like mutton fat and candles. Obviously it depends on the senior citizen. No two elderly Latvians taste alike, which is the charm of this dish. 42 Place Zug.

SNACK BARS

Snack bars are located all over Latvia, but a typical one we liked was in the city of Ciflis, where the nationally famous Zuka Company is located. Zuka makes the metal attachments, the taps, used on tap dancing shoes. Latvian taps are much larger than the normal sizes (Latvian feet are much larger than normal feet) and emit a louder, sharper sound. Everyone in Ciflis wears taps on his shoes and is always practicing a step or doing a little routine. The noise takes a little getting used to, and some visitors never do. The best solution is to buy some Zuka taps and join the crowd.

Ciflis is famous for its dibli, served in the snack bars on the streets or in the codacs, the tap dancing clubs. In a codac you simply put on your tap shoes and dance, with or without a partner, disco-style. Latvian tap dancers are wildly energetic and work up an enormous appetite for their dibli, which translates as 'airballs.'' Dibli come in a wide variety of shapes and styles, but are essentially nothing more than outer skins, casings, shells, and crusts, which can be baked, fried, broiled, or steamed—with nothing inside them. The dibli shell, usually some kind of dumpling or pastry dough, imparts all the flavor to the food. The art of dibli making is to puff it up with a lot of air so that it looks as if it has a lot of filling in it. As you eat a dibli you are supposed to fantasize about what you'd like it stuffed with. Dibli eaters can spend hours discussing the merits of vari-



ous nonexistent fillings, through the din and clack-clack of the tap dancers.

NOTE: Don't forget that Latvia is now a Soviet republic and has acguired some of the customs and rules that reflect the philosophy of Marxism. One of the most prevalent is the sharing of food in restaurants. This may sound a little odd, especially when you're ravenously hungry and you find a dozen persistent Latvians hovering around your table, waiting for some of your sperli cutlets, but don't resist or you'll find yourself in a terribly embarrassing situation. Just give them little pieces. Latvians take this part of Communism very seriously, so your best bet is to order double or triple portions of everything to keep yourself and the rest of the restaurant patrons and waiters happy. Keep in mind that you can share in whatever the other diners order, but whenever a Latvian sees a Westerner he always orders the cheapest, most mundane item on the menu.

HUNTING

One of the best ways to dine in Latvia is to kill an animal and cook it yourself. A hunting license can be obtained in any municipal building of any town or city. Buying a gun is not as easy, but there's always a man on the street who has access to that kind of thing and can lead you to the right source for a small tip, and a small tip in Latvia is very, very small. The rural areas of Latvia boast many exotic animals dating back to prehistoric times, including a wild capon that weighs over fifty pounds.

HOTELS SOHA— HOTEL APEX

Centrally located, almost in the middle of Latvia, the Apex is probably the country's finest hotel. Turolat, the government tourist bureau, has been restoring this grand old structure to its prewar glory, but unfortunately has been doing a very poor job. Still, there are faded remnants everywhere of what was once one of the luxury hotels of the central plains, where Latvian society and merchant princes enjoyed the



Seen here is an American tourist practicing the Latvian custom of shtupping—the sharing of food in public places. Shtupping is a direct outgrowth of the Marxist credo "To each according to his appetite, from each according to his leftovers."

benefits of the legendary Bogd Spa, which is only a few miles away.

The rooms of the Apex are large but have very little furniture. There are three rooms with water, one with a semiprivate bath. Bathing is not common in Latvia and is only done on certain holidays and religious rituals. If you insist on bathing every day there are special bath buses that will take you to a local pond or stream where you can perform your ablutions. We suggest you limit your bathing to once or twice a week, because the transportation to the water can be very time-consuming and unreliable. Many bathers have been left stranded at a pond for days before they got back to the hotel. Make sure the bus waits for you while you bathe. 18 Kortuma Street.

THE SPA AT BOGD

Famous for the healing powers of its black water, which comes not from mud but oil. The Bogd springs are suffused with a dark black oil which is high in mineral deposits that are supposed to soothe and comfort the body and spirit. It is also taken internally by Latvians for many ills. The black oil has a tendency to stick to the body and can be difficult to remove. If it seeps into the pores, leave it alone and it will go away eventually. With their own blackened skins, Latvians often perform mulcas, a native version of a minstrel show. A warning: Some people are allergic to the black waters of Bogd and can break out in giant hives or even sustain permanent injury to their limbs and skin. Hair loss and blindness have also been reported. "Test the waters gingerly" should be the rule.

KITLU— HOTEL EXCALIBUR

One of the new hotels built by the government tourist bureau, boasting three hundred rooms, many with water and sleeping facilities. Kitlu is the home of the Latvia souvenir cushion, which is why the Excalibur has so many rooms with sleeping facilities. The hotel simply piles up the

cushions (stuffed with plurn) in every room. Unfortunately, the rooms do not have closets, nor does the hotel have elevators (it is twenty-five stories high). But there are excellent staircases that connect to every other floor. 33 Citjo Avenue.

SMEGMA— LIPPISLAND ENCHANTED COTTAGE COLONY AND CABANA CLUB

Smegma is the birthplace of Latvia's beloved creator of movies for children, Bvrici Lippis. To honor its national idol, Latvia has built a gigantic theme park in Smegma called Lippisland. Here hundreds of thousands of children of all ages flock to the rides, games, exhibits, and shows designed around Lippis's beloved animal characters, such as Mickey Svev, Donald Juka, Daffy Juka, Ginki, Mibo, Ckis Koitiv and the Seven Filts, and many other delightful fairy-tale creatures.

In the midst of this wonderland you can stay at the Lippisland Enchanted Cottage Colony and Cabana Club. Each unit is a separate enchanted cottage decorated with Lippis characters and motifs, and features, at no extra charge, a complete sink with faucets and knobs. No water was available at this writing, but the government tourist bureau promises a new plumbing system to be installed in the near future. The Cabana Club does not yet have a swimming pool, but does sport a pair of tables, some chairs, and a brown umbrella.

TELDRIN— HOTEL OLYMPUS

The ghosts of Latvia's artistic splendors still haunt this small, cozy hostelry on the Baltic coast. In the hotel's heyday, Smel Lurgom, Latvia's greatest poet and wit, had a suite every summer where he would hold court under the town's ramshackle old boardwalk. Arg Aljeric, Narmen Silsi, Pob Levo, and the painters of the "Green Room" School used to come to this seaside town in the summer to escape from the teeming cities. In 1927, the famous Destructionist Manifesto, an anti-Semitic and anti-beauty tract,

was written at the Olympus by Noxema Celc, Latvia's greatest modern painter.

Today the Olympus suffers from benign neglect, but the small, snug rooms still remind you of Latvia's once flourishing art colonies, their loves and scandals. Visitors might still find odd bits of clothing, underwear from the twenties and thirties left behind in a drawer that evoke romantic nights and hot, steamy days. Unfortunately, you might also find some items, more current, that are not so fascinating. Note: The hotel's legendary old Cafe Muse has been torn down and replaced by a food coupon center. Still, Latvian nostalgia buffs like to visit this seedy little hotel, which probably hasn't been cleaned since 1937. 84 Smorg Street.

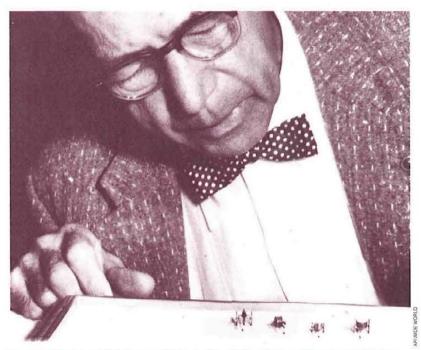
NIGHTLIFE

Latvians are a surprisingly restless breed who lead a fairly active nightlife, even in the small towns and villages. Though most of the people do not earn large sums by Western standards, they can still afford most of the shows, because they are incredibly cheap. Some of the Latvian evening attractions may not be your cup of tea. Again, try to keep an open and adventurous mind. The main thing is to get into the spirit of your visit and do as the Latvians do. And remember to bring a flashlight. There are no streetlights in Latvia.

INSECT SHOWS

A great favorite with young and old. Latvians are continually fascinated by insect life and love to see trained fleas, locusts, ants, spiders, crickets, and other native bugs. Almost every major city and town has a traveling locust and cricket show, usually a musical with a giant shadow screen to magnify the insects. The insects are trained and sometimes prodded with tiny electric wires to dance and sing along with familiar Latvian songs. Fleas and ants are trained to do miniature gymnastic and ballet routines, and spiders specialize in slow ballads. It's all rather naive and goodhearted, and most visitors soon get caught up in the charm and ingenuity of the performers. Just look for the words bjud sceli (insect show) in the local newspaper's entertainment section.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)



Petey Barmaidski puts his trained bedbugs through their paces before a bjud sceli performance. Here the insects perform Mimi's famous death scene from La Bohème.





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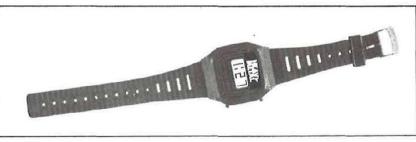
Monty Python's JOHN CLEESE. Punk movie director PENELOPE SPHEERIS.

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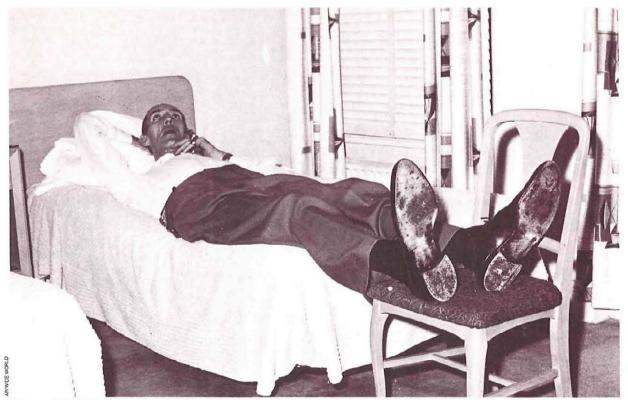
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Bruno Pennilofa, a.k.a. "The Slav Stomper," rests his champion-size 28's prior to his title bout with Carl "The Mad Doctor" Scholl, famous for his elusive sidestep maneuver.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

LIVING PUPPET THEATER

Latvia is a land of puppet lovers. Every Latvian child grows up with hand and foot puppets, puppet theaters, and puppet making. In fact, most Latvians take their puppets with them wherever they go, in their handbags and their pockets, so that they can practice all day. They wear hand puppets the way most people wear gloves. Many times a Latvian will communicate via his hand puppet rather than speak to you directly. Since they lead a mundane existence Latvians like to assume the fantasy character and lifestyle of their puppets in preference to their own lives.

One man, Egro Scuk, recognized the importance of Latvia's puppet obsession and created a new theater to accommodate it, using as his theme the puppet as a living creature, as Man himself. Instead of a tiny puppet theater operated by humans manipulating puppets on strings, he made his actors into

puppets and had other puppeteers manipulate them. "All people are puppets and those in power pull the string," said Scuk in a rare interview some years ago.

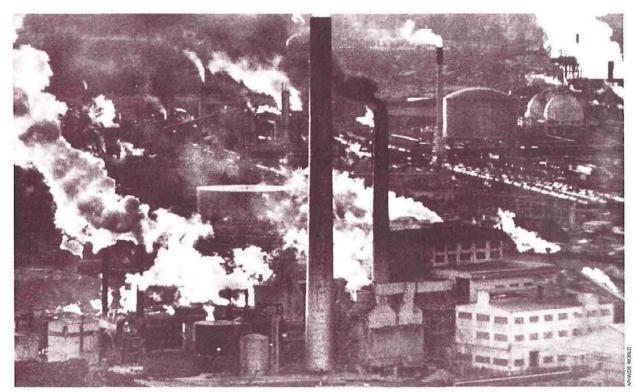
In order to create a successful human puppet theater Scuk had to find talented performers and extremely strong puppeteers. He found the actors and eventually trained a group of weight lifters to manipulate them. At first he used ropes attached to the human puppets, but this was too crude, even though the ropes were painted the same color as the backgrounds, to go unnoticed. Today Scuk uses the finest nylon-100,000 times stronger than rope and almost invisible. His weight lifters are of Olympic caliber and can move the human puppets easily for hours at a stretch.

Although Scuk still produces shows of a political nature he understands that he is primarily an entertainer and will vary his repertoire to include Latvian classics, Shakespeare, Molière, and the Russian masters. He also does special children's shows at Christmas.

CAFÉS

For a truly inexpensive evening, the best idea is to hang out at any Latvian café, which is what most Latvians do. Have a glass of horovitz or smolca and watch the locals pitch skurni (similar to pitching pennies), engage in some informal folk clapping or coughing, or just take their evening promenade, with flashlights beaming everywhere.

Aside from drinking, the major café activity is the zemeckis, the foot-stomping contests. Zemeckis is the Latvian equivalent of arm wrestling, except that the participants take turns stepping on each other's feet until one man gives up. In every café you'll hear the familiar crunching sound of feet smashing into bones, accompanied by screams of pain. The old phrase "He walks like a limping Latvian" refers to the poor victims of this cruel but popular sport. Don't join in unless you can win in one shot. Latvians possess the largest and strongest feet in Europe and don't seem to mind a few broken or fractured bones.



Sootski International, where most of the world's smog is actually manufactured by slave labor, belches out a load destined for San Diego, while its nearby competitor sends out a shipment bound for New York City.

SCENIC TOURS

Latvia is famous for its lack of beautiful scenery in the accepted sense. Even in the Tylenols, its only mountain range, there is very little dramatic topographical character. But this is the country's true appeal. After you've overdosed on the scenic wonders of England, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the other more physically blessed countries, the plainness of Latvia comes as a welcome relief and change. The government tourist bureau has finally understood the value of the country's understated scenery and is trying to promote it with more energy and flair.

TOUR OF THE ELBO RIVER

One of the highlights of a visit to Latvia is the scenic boat ride down the Elbo River, which takes about three days. In this age of ecological controls the Elbo River tour offers a rare chance to see one of the last authentic high-pollution industrial areas of the world, with manufacturing facilities that have remained unchanged for nearly a century.

You will depart from the river city of Vijdic on one of the large glass-bottom boats that allow you to see the fascinating mutant underwater life of the Elbo, widely regarded as the most polluted river in the world. Bring your camera to record the four-headed fish, the plants that emit black gas, the half sponge-half halibut, and much more.

The trip covers about 150 miles of the Elbo. Along the way you will visit the Smic Sausage Company, where the odor is so pungent it can create holes in your clothing; the Kotina Soap and Detergent plant, where you will get free samples and have your laundry done; the slavelabor factories at Kunka, Tril, and Mugpe, where ballpoint pens are made. Quick stops will be made at chemical and bacteriological warfare plants, animal food factories, and some areas still unidentified which simply produce dark liquids and belch black smoke.

The last day of the trip concentrates on the lighter industries and the seemingly endless rows of housing developments along the river, the perfect way to unwind and relax after the intensity and darkness of the first two days. As with most Latvian transportation, accommodations are barely adequate, but if you have an open mind and a keen sense of adventure you will be far more tolerant of the facilities. The less fussy you are about certain amenities the more likely you will enjoy the trip.

NATURAL WONDERS

VULE— THE FOUNTAIN OF SKIM MILK

Every fifteen minutes this little fountain erupts and pours forth about a pint of skim milk. No one knows how this is done or where the milk comes from. Only the natives of Vule are allowed to collect the skim milk for their personal use. Tight security is imposed to keep tourists from



Two colorfully dressed performers in the Pageant with No Name prepare to engage in the spittle-merging celebration, an integral part of Latvia's most solemn annual religious ceremony.

breaking in and poaching the milk. The milk itself is always consistent in content. Laboratory analyses report it is a perfect 99 percent fat-free product.

The fountain is located about ten miles east of Vule, a small, sleepy village that once produced children's gloves and mittens made of plurn.

THE TYLENOLS

The world's smallest mountain range (they can almost be classified as very large hills), the Tylenols offer the visitor a winter sports holiday that is the equal of any in Eastern Europe.

The major sport of the Tylenols is tigbo, or body skiing, which is essentially skiing without skis. Latvians cannot afford real skis and instead use shoes with flat, waxed soles. When they fall (and they usually do), they roll down the mountain using their bodies as if they were human skis, or, more accurately, human bobsleds.

The Tylenols are unspoiled by the usual onslaught of greedy land de-

velopers. There are no trails carved out of the natural terrain. Nothing has been touched. The mountainsides are still dense with trees and there is very little space in between for tigbo, which makes the sport terribly exciting as you hurtle down trying to avoid a massive tree trunk.

The Tylenol towns of Buga, St. Amalc, Tavko, and Igalci offer snug little cottages rented by the local peasants to tourists and tigbo enthusiasts. They are not luxurious. They are not even comfortable, but rather a place to "crash" after a long day on the slopes and a long night enjoying the après-tigbo frolicking at the local horovitz bars. (Horovitz is the Tylenolese wine made from sheep.)

FESTIVALS

SERGLO FOLK CLAP FESTIVAL

Latvians by nature are not good singers or dancers, but they are superb applauders. What started many centuries ago as applause for other people's singing and dancing talent gradually evolved into a folk art form in itself. In Latvia you can enjoy the art of rhythmic clapping, clapping games and stories, clapping songs, clapping rituals, and, most important, pure "hand music." The Serglo Folk Clap Festival

The Serglo Folk Clap Festival lasts for eight months, so it is very easy to catch. There are 161 categories, with participants ranging from tiny tots to the old and infirm, from Olympic-caliber clappers to paraplegics.

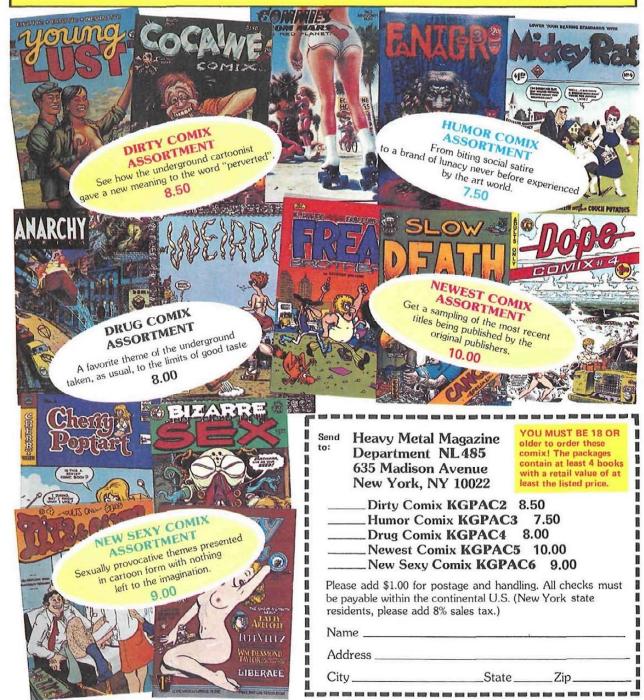
THE PAGEANT WITH NO NAME

Deep in the foothills of the Cerula region there is a large natural amphitheater carved out of hardened mud where every year Latvian pilgrims from far and wide congregate to perform the Pageant with No Name. No one knows the complete story of the pageant. It just unfolds before you at its own leisurely pace, combining mimicry, mime clapping, and other theatrical and religious "pieces of business" performed by people wearing colorful costumes.



NOT FOR THE TIMID!

It's true! These original, uncensored comix are not for those among us who might blush at the sight of skin or shy away from —shall we say—unusual situations. These comix are for those of us who have normal all-American red-blooded corpuscles! Those of us who can look a joke in the eye and laugh! The collections here are by the same underground cartoonists who set the comics world on its ear with their uninhibited humor and other-worldly visions.



COUGHING SCHOOLS

As noted, most Latvians are poor singers and dancers, but they are superb coughers as well as clappers, performing remarkable feats of musicality with this sound. From earliest childhood coughing Latvians can detect the innate talent that deserves to be nurtured and developed into a lifetime career. Every year thousands of Latvian parents hope to enroll their children in the state coughing schools, where they will receive the finest training and coaching and will become eligible to join the great cough companies of Svabo and Pisk.

Although both are statesponsored, Svabo and Pisk have evolved into a natural rivalry because of their widely different coughing styles, with fierce adherents on both sides. Svabo is the classical school, still using the methods and guidelines created by Latvia's premier cougher, Ercis Lapzigo, in the 1880s—a series of delicate coughs gradually building in size, tone, and duration to crescendos of power, much like the movements of a classical symphony. The Pisk School is more modern, more avant-garde, emphasizing rhythm and body movement—a non-linear approach that reminds one of a music video. Luckily, there is still some crossover among the students themselves, with many of them performing in both the classical and modern modes.

The basic skill one must develop as a cougher is control. Once you lose control and cough because of a physical need you are highly susceptible to phlegm buildup and spitting, which are absolutely forbidden in coughing performances. Anyone caught "laying an oyster" can be dismissed from the schools. A cougher's worst enemy, of course, is throat tickle, which produces that racking cough that can get out of control and prevent you from creating a lyrical, dramatic, controlled number.

Some of the younger Latvians have rebelled openly against both the classical and modern schools and actually flaunt their lack of control, openly laying oysters, spitting, and coughing in violent fits until they

bring up blood. They perform in small clubs to wildly enthusiastic crowds, coughing and croaking in a jagged, angry style, spitting out at the audience. The audience dresses in extreme anti-Establishment style—bell-bottom trousers and flowered shirts, and sporting long hair and granny glasses.

The underground cough clubs, called ctinkas, operate without official government approval and maintain a precarious existence. They are extremely difficult to find unless you are a trusted friend of a young rebellious Latvian. As you might expect, ctinkas are the kind of places that breed violence and riots, although the leading cough groups assert that their performances are "political statements," not entertainment—that they speak for Latvia's alienated youth and will not take the blame for the consequences of

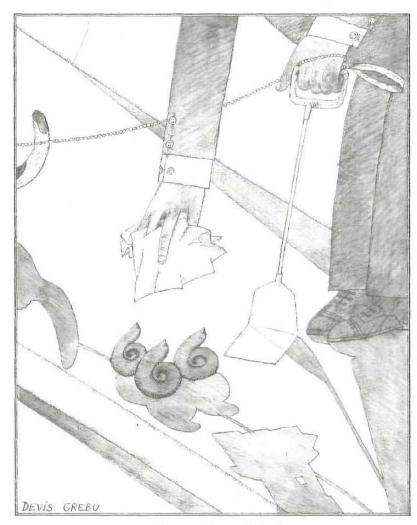
their work.

As a visitor, it is advisable not to become involved in this kind of conflict. If you are present at an underground cough club that has been raided by the police you may suffer the dire consequences of becoming a captive in an Iron Curtain country. Quite possibly a life sentence in one of Latvia's maximum security prisons or labor camps awaits you. If you attend this kind of performance you do it at your own risk.

MUSEUMS

TIFTI—THE MUSEUM OF BEARDS, MUSTACHES, AND WIGS

Probably the only museum of its kind in the world. Most of the ex-



666-The number of the beast.

hibits are genuine hair (there are a few synthetic wigs), carefully preserved and rejuvenated with oils, pomades, and shampoos. You can see the museum's hair-grooming specialists doing their washing, setting, brushing, and combing duties every Wednesday and Saturday morning at 8 A.M.

Highlights of the museum: The earliest example of a "cornrow" hairstyle, actually a cornrow beard, designed by the court beard dresser for Emperor Pirog II, in 960 A.D. The longest beard in the world sixty-seven feet long, weighing thirty-two pounds, belonging to Nurni Czil, an electrician from the city of Dlad, who died in 1956. The world's smallest mustache-onehundredth of an inch and perfectly trimmed, belonging to a farmer from Biltu named Sjrt Vej. The incredible braided beards of the Crinic cult, a religious group that worshiped large smoked meats shaped like Stonehenge formations. The Crinics grew long beards, which they then braided and knotted together to form a long hair chain so they would never lose any of their flock. Tiny jeweled hair caps worn by the Holy Order of St. Vic, the Triaminicans. The Triaminicans were dedicated to healing chest congestion and coughing and invented the world's first cough syrup, Vic Formula 43. The merkin worn by Ega Dvisi, Latvia's foremost actress -a magnificent shock of false pubic hair that glowed in the dark and could "talk"—no doubt a ventriloguist's trick, but it never failed to enchant her audience.

YOSH—THE MUSEUM OF BROKEN GLASS, WOOD, AND ASSORTED DEBRIS

American artists are just beginning to discover an art form that Latvians have been working with for centuries. Not a place to bring small children.

Also in Yosh is the Latvian National Folk Arts Center, a museum, school, workshop, retail outlet, and a finished "rec" room for parties. Every section of the country is well-represented with folk material.

You'll find authentic grindic guilts made of old socks and shoelaces; the ornate hand-carved enema instruments of the Zorn region; delicate linen baby diapers, so sheer they can be worn only once; dolls made of oric, the Latvian cranberry; the colorful foot puppets of the Mraci Peninsula; and much more. There are huge baskets woven out of ritci noodles, baked and spray-painted; the gaily embroidered half-vests from Nicona; sturdy leather serving dishes, still made by the Agfa, the nomads of the plains. One floor is devoted exclusively to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century zikri, the exquisitely patterned dustballs made by small children. Craftsmen are still making primitive toys such as the skurnik, a square-wheeled cart, and the csnol, a lovable bear-like creature made from recycled wastes.

SPORTS

TRUCK STOPPING

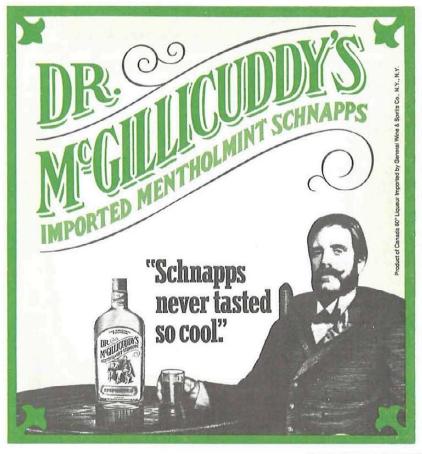
Truck stopping is one of the great

national pastimes of Latvia. As soon as a Latvian youngster is able to walk his father buys him a large toy truck and tries to "run him over," teaching the boy to "stop the truck" with his bare hands. Girls are now encouraged to participate in truck stopping as well, as the government has officially proclaimed the equality of the sexes.

As the children mature they work with bigger and bigger trucks, until they are ready for the full-size vehicles. As early as the age of six, Latvian boys and girls are organized in truck stopping clubs and leagues.

The game is simple. There is a truck driver and a truck stopper. The driver tries to run over the stopper. The stopper must hold back the truck with his bare hands. Solo truck stopping is the most difficult category, even with the truck traveling at the slowest speeds. But the real competition lies in the group categories, which are divided into various weights, sizes, and number of players. The trucks range from lightweight to trailers.

Every city and village in Latvia





A Latvian truck used in truck stopping. Many brave Latvians have been lost to its fury.

has its own informal truck stopping matches, usually ending in a large picnic and blood-donating party. The professional leagues are well organized, and the teams have millions of loyal followers who root with the intensity and zeal of soccer fans. If you wish to see a truck stopping match there is usually someone at your hotel who can arrange for tickets. The big matches are rowdy affairs that sometimes get out of hand when favorites get hurt or die. Truck stopping rules are difficult to enforce by the referees. The Cmjo Cup, the Super Bowl of truck stopping, is televised on the government TV network, but there are only thirty-four TV sets in the country, all owned by high-ranking government officials. At Cmjo Cup time you will find thousands of people gathered outside the homes of the government officials. If they are in a good mood one of the assistants will announce the latest news of the match to the crowd. The match is also broadcast over government radio, and radios are cheap and plentiful in Latvia. Unfortunately, radio reception is poor. The only sound you can hear on Latvian radio is a whine not unlike that of a chain saw.

SHOPPING

There are scores of shopping treasures in Latvia, if you know what to look for and where. Be wary of "antiques" unless you are absolutely sure of your source, especially carpets, animal carvings, and pottery. All of these are most likely factory-made and come from North Korea or the Ukraine. These objects are certainly cheap but will hardly offer you the satisfaction of owning the true native products. Here are some of the authentic Latvian wares to look for, handmade by artisans in the traditional manner of their ancestors, with much the same skill and artistry.

BIBS

Latvians quite possibly make the finest bibs in the world, especially the lobster bib. The designs are minimal—a simple, naive version of a lobster, or perhaps a chicken motif—there are usually three or four to choose from. The beauty of a Latvian bib is the material—an indefinable synthetic fiber that has remarkable strength and absorbency.

The most indelible stains such as melted butter, beef gravy, wine, mucus all simply disappear in this bib. The fabric feels like a cross between Naugahyde and Astroturf and never wears out. You can eat like a pig and nothing will show. It never needs laundering. In about six months, however, you will detect an odor coming from the bib that grows more powerful by the minute. At this point simply burn it and start using a fresh one. Do not throw it into the garbage or your incinerator. Burn it separately in a remote place.

HAIRNETS

Latvians are terribly proud of their hair and like to wake up in the morning with all of it neatly combed and pomaded. For this they use the old-fashioned hairnet, made of hammered zinc, a specialty of the Bjuka region. Artisans create hairnets in thousands of sizes and shapes out of the soft metal and then mold it carefully to your head when you are being fitted. A leather string ties around your neck, keeping the hairnet snug through the night.

RELIGIOUS RELICS

This is the one antique you can buy without fear of fraud or misrepresentation. Hundreds of Latvian saints and martyrs have died in holy causes, leaving behind tons of bones, hair, fingernails, and other odds and ends. Many churches and cathedrals hold weekly sales where you'll find piles of relics in excellent condition, some dating back to the thirteenth century. The prices are very reasonable (twenty to thirty tfilin for a saint's foot, fifty to seventyfive tfilin for a skull). Stick to the church sales rather than the supermarkets or department stores, where the prices are suspiciously low. But if you see a relic yard sale, try it. You'll most likely be rewarded with a find.

MUCILAGE

Take home as many bottles as you can carry. Latvians make marvelous mucilage, those glues that take you back to your kindergarten days—pungent, sticky, and redolent of chemicals. Latvians always carry a bottle of their favorite mucilage with them, because they like to stick little pieces of paper on their friends as a practical joke.

WOODEN GLOVES

The hand-carved wooden glove is a Latvian craft that is centuries old and has been revived by young artisans dedicated to their country's folk craft traditions. The gloves are painted in many colors and motifs and are especially delightful to young children, who enjoy clapping their gloves together to make loud drum-like noises.

SAUSAGE RUGS

These are not necessarily antiques, although you can still find a few dating back to the turn of the century. Sausage rugs were and still are made by prisoners out of prison sausage, which is virtually inedible. The meat seems to lend itself more to rug weaving. The sausages are long and thin and easy to work with. The older rugs used a softer, more flexible sausage that had a nice feel and a resilience under the foot. The newer rugs use a more

brittle sausage that has to be sprayed with a fixative to keep them from cracking. Experts rate the rugs made from 1910 to 1930 as the Golden Age, when the sausages had a particularly well-balanced quality and deep earth tones. The designs and motifs are unusually risque, being made by sexually deprived men, but you will be won over by their crude charm.

DUTY-FREE ITEMS YOU CAN BUY AT THE AIRPORT

PERFUMES

Latvian perfumes are thicker and heavier than their Western counterparts. They will take a little longer to evaporate, as they are applied with a stick or a spoon. The most popular perfume is Zigmis, a word which is almost impossible to translate ("sex broth" is the closest). Zigmis smells something like warm chicken soup, licorice, and hard-boiled egg. Latvians love it for its comfortable, homey quality. Women feel secure

with it; men like its cozy familiar smell. Flowery scents make Latvians feel dizzy and faint. They prefer the smells they know best, derived from their food, clothing, and work.

LIQUOR AND WINE

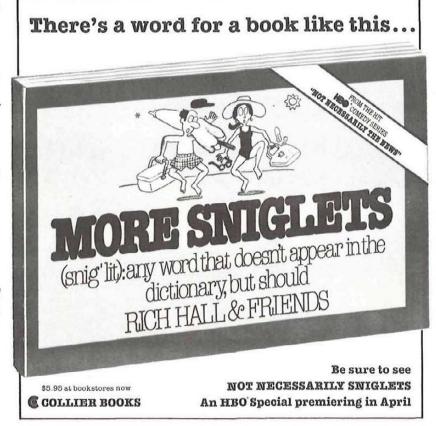
A powerful brandy made from spinach, it is a refreshing change from the usual French varieties. Little bits of spinach float in the bottle, adding an exotic touch.

HOROVITZ

The fabled wine of the Tylenols, made from mountain sheep. Horovitz travels well and is quite cheap. You are allowed to buy as many bottles as you can carry.

CURDLI

An aperitif derived from a lake fish of the same name. It has an oily quality which some cannot adjust to and others find haunting. Latvians claim it has the power to make certain organs of the body grow larger.



HOLIDAYS

CULI DOGBA'S BIRTHDAY (APRIL 7)

Though Latvia is a Soviet republic it still celebrates many of its pre-Communist holidays. The birthday of Culi Dogba, the Father of Modern Latvia, is a major national holiday that the Russians cannot discourage. The entire country closes down and everyone sits in the fetal position for an hour or so, imitating Dogba's birth. Then they slap each other, cry a little, and drink smolca out of baby bottles. As the drinking increases the men get more daring and try to suckle the breasts of their wives or girlfriends. If you were to put a gigantic microphone over the entire country on Dogba's

birthday it would sound like a deafening slurp.

SAINT CIMRL'S DAY (AUGUST 23)

Saint Cimrl of Agred was the legendary warrior-priest who led the first peasant revolt against the hujri, the wealthy lords and landowners of the fifteenth century. Cimrl and his entire army were wiped out in minutes, crushed by heavy stones and burnt to cinders. It was such a devastating and demoralizing defeat that the Latvian peasants never rebelled again. But their guilt over Cimrl's defeat forced them to create a holiday in his honor, the day of his humiliating massacre. On this day the peasants of Latvia celebrate the wonder of their existence and their good luck in not being struck by lightning, hit by a car, or drowned in quicksand.

PJET PILCI DAY (NOVEMBER 19)

Pjet Pilci is the beloved hero of a series of children's books written by Olf Frimcur, Latvia's greatest writer of children's stories. Pjet was a mischievous, plucky lad who refused to take baths. In each story he got smellier and smellier until people could not come near him, fainting from the odor. Finally the poor boy fell sick from the germs that festered on his body and was about to die when a brave doctor picked him up and threw him in a bathtub of soapy water. The bath was so effective that it brought Pjet back to life, and he was so thankful that he decided to bathe once a year, on that day when he was saved. This is now the traditional day when Latvian children take their yearly bath. It's a jolly affair that is usually followed by spirited towel-snapping fights.



It's Culi Dogba's birthday, and in the time-honored tradition the locals celebrate by suckling the breasts of the women in their lives. Singles often substitute dibli when breasts are unavailable.

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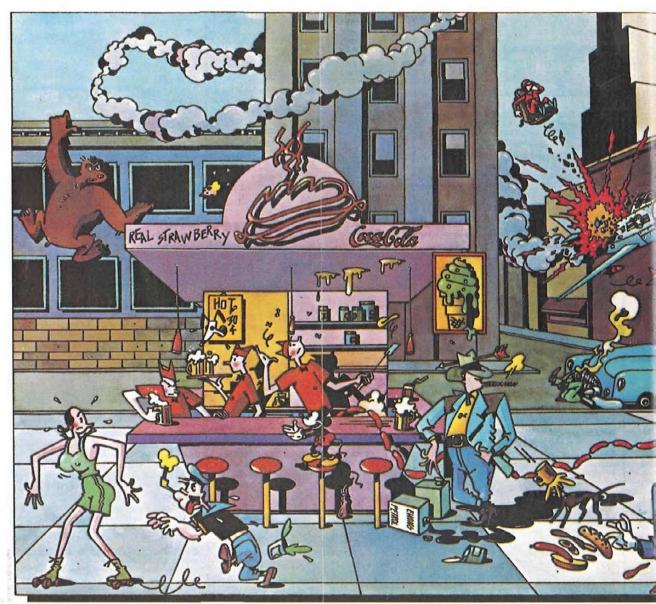


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OFFICIAL NL-APPROVED HUMOR FROM

TOGRASONS TO



They are fat, they are afraid of the Russians, and they think that the Arc de Triomphe was the na

he United States is a great country, and the Americans are the greatest people on earth. Our pipes are U.S. made and we wear only blue jeans. The only thing that still makes us dream and gives us the thrill of adventure is an endless high-

way crossing Arizona. Our children wear only clothes from the Sears catalog. We smoke Marlboros, we go to all the American films, and we love to eat at McDonald's. But, to be honest, we've had enough. Everything looks black, except the American flag, which looks red.

So we'll go ahead and list all the things that we hate about Americans. We love to hate Americans.

A country that invented the springloaded hair band is inevitably a great country.

HATE AMERICANS



of Noah's boat.

They also invented that great toaster, the electric chair.

They are fat.

Their electric current is still only

A nation that invented chewing gum is inevitably a great nation.

They're afraid of Qaddafi. American coffee is mud.

They're afraid of the Russians.

They think that Brussels is a suburb of Paris and that Rome is on the outskirts of Amsterdam.

Edison didn't invent the phonograph: he stole the idea from Charles Cros, who invented the paleophone.

Are they proud of the rakishly pointed hats worn by the Ku Klux Klan?

They eat "dogs hot," don't they? To an American, a good restaurant is one in which you can finish your meal in less than five minutes.

You can't make good wine from potato chips.

A gourmet meal in America: a hamburger, Coca-Cola, and ketchup.

They are big.

They are afraid of the Russians. They put Camembert cheese in the refrigerator, horror of horrors.

They have given California wines French names.

Haven't they bought the Eiffel Tower a few times?

High technology in America: the DC-10 and the Star Fighter.

Their ideal woman: the Playboy Playmate.

And how about all those fat women in curlers who prowl in the aisles of American supermarkets: aren't they horrible?

Americans drink and smoke during sex, never afterward.

They are afraid of the Russians. They are afraid of Khomeini. The Mafia.

They weren't the first to send Sputnik around the earth.

Yes, they did make it to the moonso what? Of course, they have created won-

derful ant farms. Disney World! The only American

cultural center.

A few great names of classical American culture: Betty Boop, Mickey Mouse, Tarzan, Superman, Popeye, Hulk, the Silver Surfer, Playboy.

They think that the Arc de Triomphe was the name of Noah's boat!

They think that Ben-Hur is the most up-to-date report on Italy. They are still afraid of the Russians.

Men's fashion in America: a potato sack with a tie.

Before you are properly introduced, they want to know how much you earn and what your rent is.

They are often obese.

More than 50 percent of the population never says hello, thank you, goodbye, or please!

They have the most ridiculous presidents on the planet Earth: Ford, Nixon, Carter, Reagan—a wonderful roster of intellectuals.

They have a formidable International Cleaning Agency: the CIA.

The typical Californian: incapable of understanding a sentence with a subject, verb, and object.

They are convinced that the only place worth visiting is their own country and that the only thing that foreigners want to do is immigrate.

True scum of the earth, they eat peanut butter by the spoonful.

They hold the world record for collective suicide-Jonestown.

Finally, if all they do with the Statue of Liberty is let it rot, they might as well give it back.

They have invented jogging—the art of running among exhaust fumes.

They still think that running water is a recent development in Europe.

But if they're so afraid of the Russians, why do they sell them all that

Well, that's enough. Let's light a Marlboro, drink a Coke, and go see the latest Steven Spielberg film. Bye-bye.

As a last parting comment, here's a true story:

Harlem, 2 A.M. A police patrol is making its rounds. Two white policemen are in the car, unhappy about being in a black neighborhood. All of a sudden, to their amazement, they hear someone singing "O Sole Mio" nearby. They follow the sound,

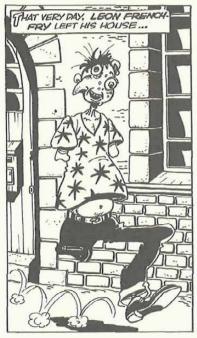
"O Sole Mio...la...la" getting closer and closer until they finally spot the singer. It's a black man, lying on the street, half dead and covered with blood. "Well, you certainly have an optimistic view of life!" says one of the policemen. And the black man answers, "Hey, man, if I had yelled 'Help!' I would've bled to death!'



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LUCKY DAY FOR A LUCKY GUY

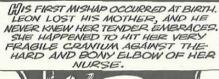




















ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF HIS FATHER FIT BASILY IN A MATCHBOX, WHICH THE PRIEST CARRIED TO THE CEMETERY. THE WOMAN STANDING BEHIND LEON IS HIS AUNT, WHO TOOK CHARGE OF HIM FROM THAT DAY ON. SHE WAS A STRICT DISCIPLINAR. IAN AND BEATHIM AT LEAST ONCE A DAY







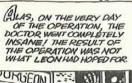




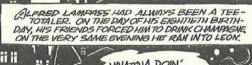




AFTER YEARS OF FUTILE ATTEMPTS,









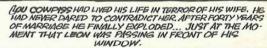


SO LEON DECIDED HE WOULD MEVER LEAVE HIS HOUSE. WHEN HIS BUILDING CAUGHT FIRE, LEON LOST ALL HIS POS-SESSIONS ALONG WITH THE TRES OF HIS REMANING FOOT.



IN SPITE OF HIS PHYSICAL APPEARAMES, LEON FOUND A WOMAN WHO WAS WILLING TO MARKY HIM. HE SOON FOUND OUT, TO HIS DISMAY, THAT HE HAD MARRIED A POLISH REF-UGEE WHO HAD RESORTED TO MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO STAY IN THIS COUNTRY.









Mevertueless, Leon Still Believed whis Lucky Star, Every Day, without Fail, He would Buy a Lottery Ticket.

AND FINALLY, FORTUNE SMILED UFON HIM: LEON FRENCHFRY HIT THE JACKPOT!! HE HOBBLED AS FAST AS HE COULD TOWARD THE ENORMOUS SUM OF MONEY MAITING FOR HIM.

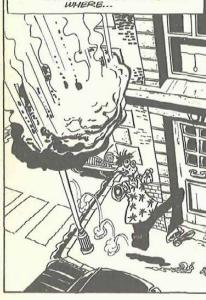




TO HIS GREAT SURPRISE
LEVERYTHING WEAT
MOOTHLY FOR LEON, HE
HEADED HOME, HOLDING
THE CHECK IN HIS
TEETH.



(A) FTER HAVING CROSSED THE LAWVERSE, BY SOME ODD TWIST OF DESTINY, THE METEORITE CHOSE TO LAWD IN THIS COUNTRY...
IN THIS CITY...
AND ON THE VERY SIDEWALK WHERE...

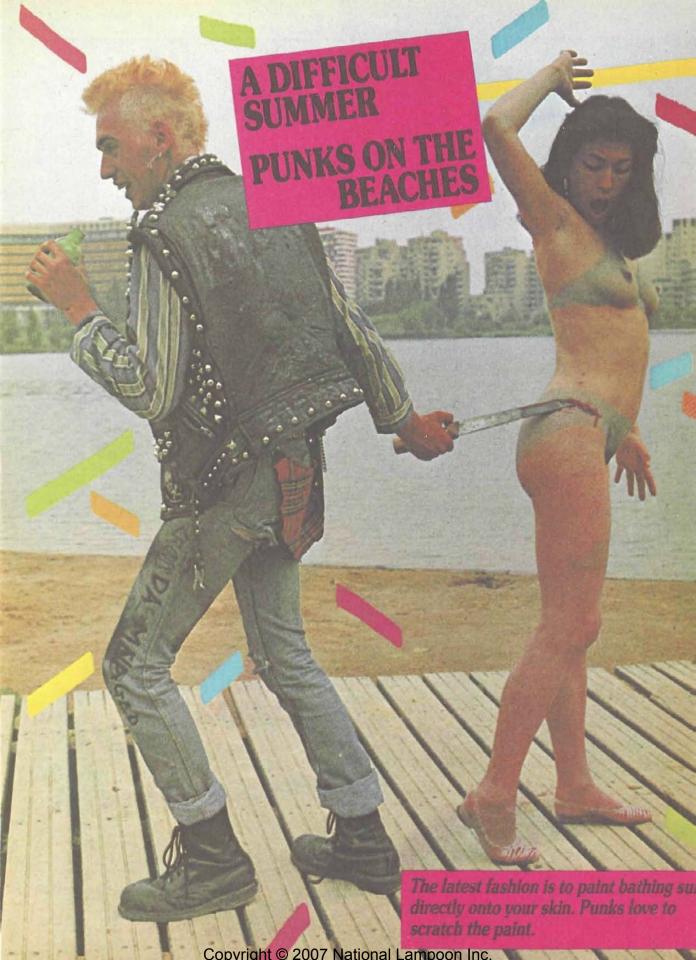


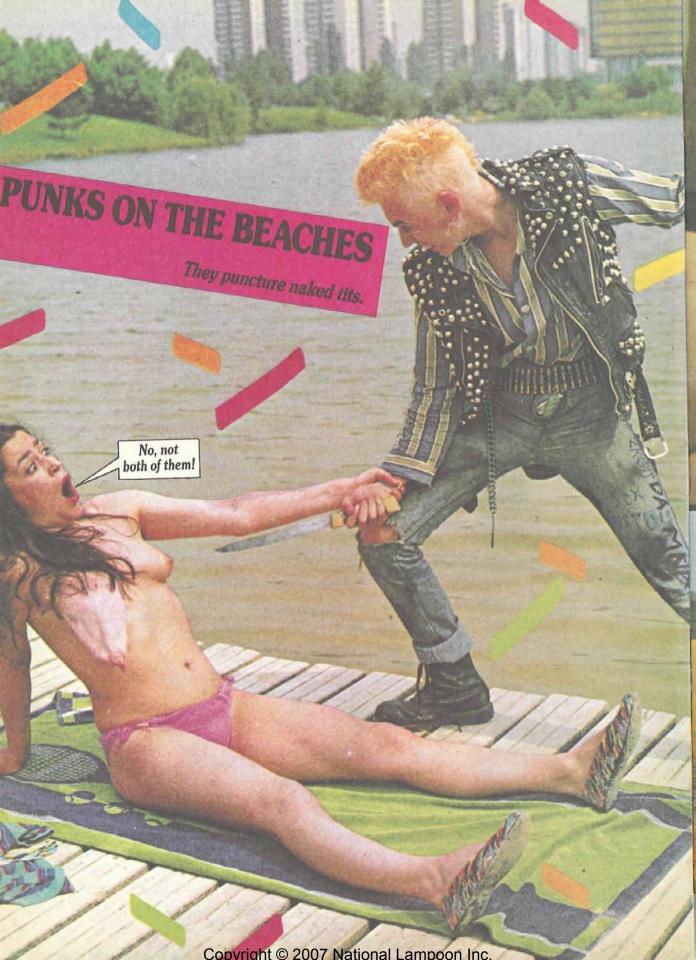


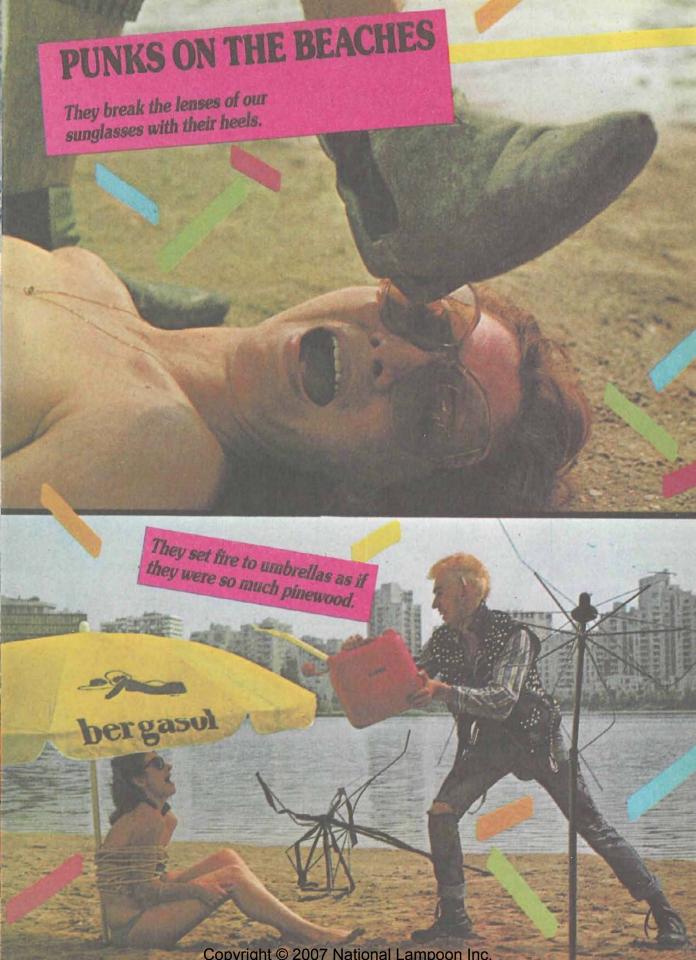
(I)NAWARE OF THE BRIEF AND POISHANT BRANA THAT WATURE WAS ENACTING SO CLOSE TO HIM, LEON FRENCHER KEPT ON WALKING ON THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS.



(A)FTER HAVING ENGAGED THE SERVICES
OF THE GREATEST PLASTIC SURGEONS,
UNO GAVE HUM A HUMAN SHAPE, LEON IS
NOW LIVING ON AN ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC
WITH ALL HE EVER WAYTED, IN THE
ARMS OF THE WOMAN OF HIS DREAMS.









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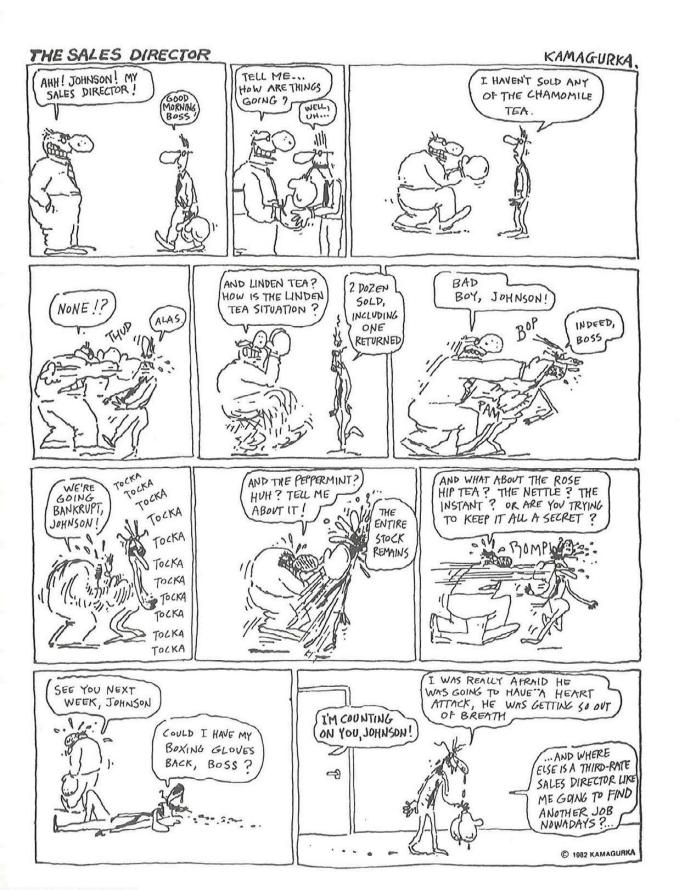
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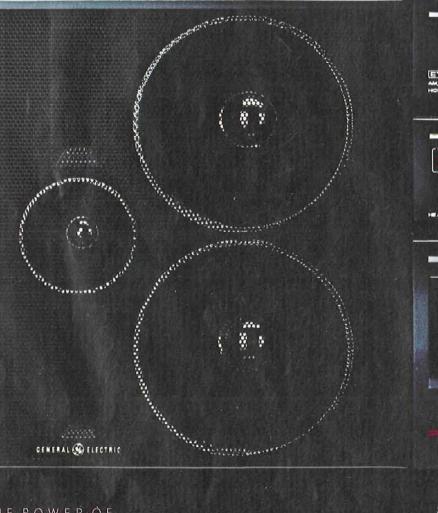
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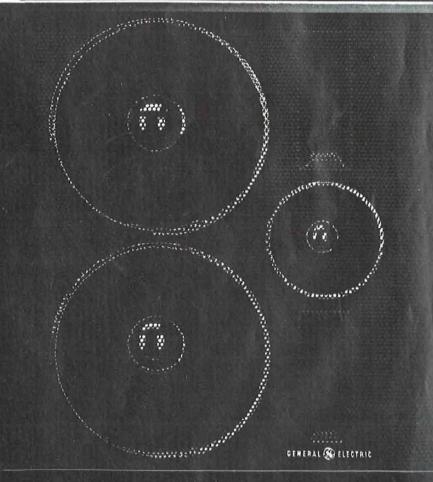
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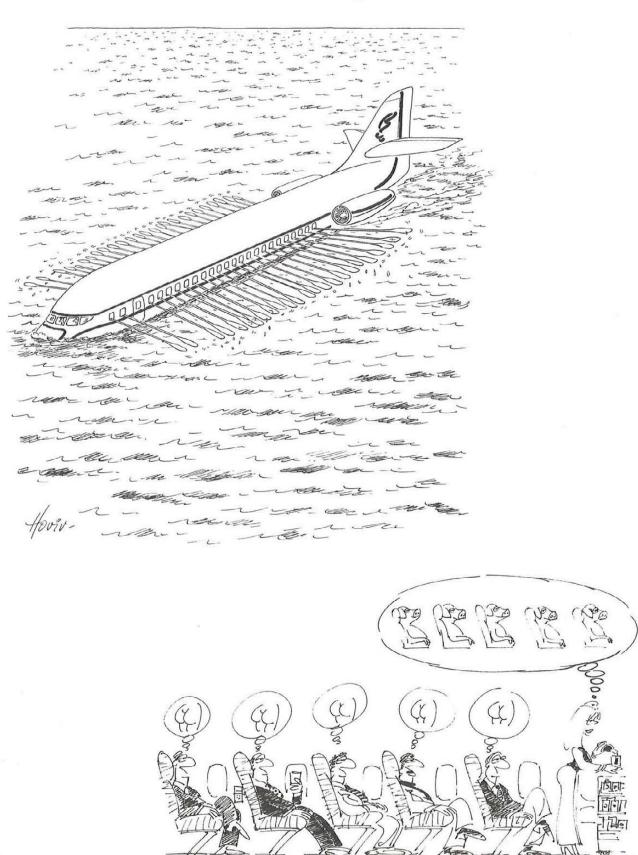




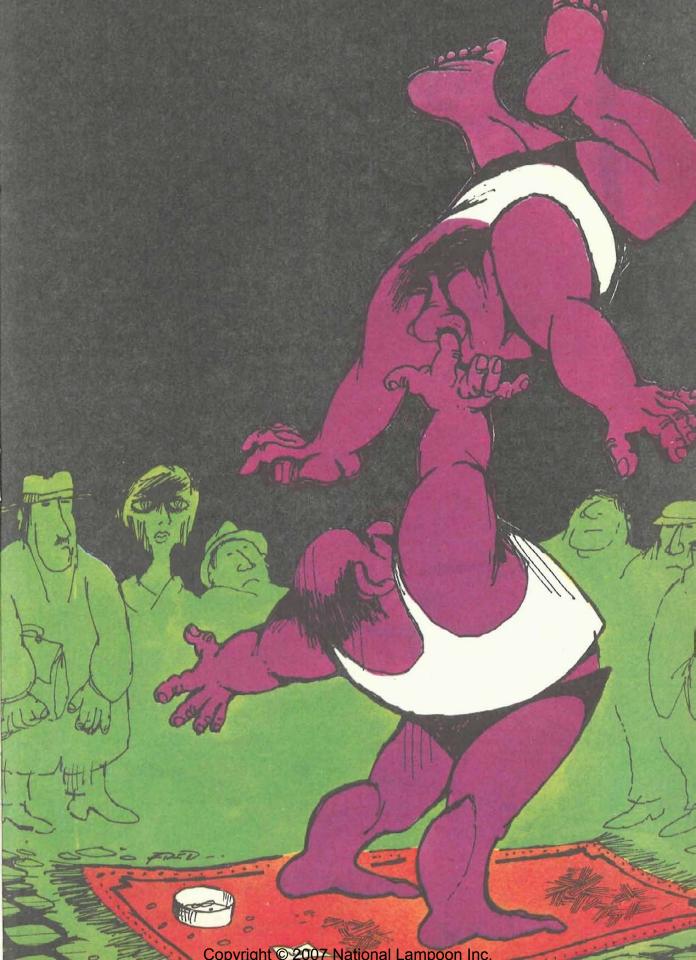


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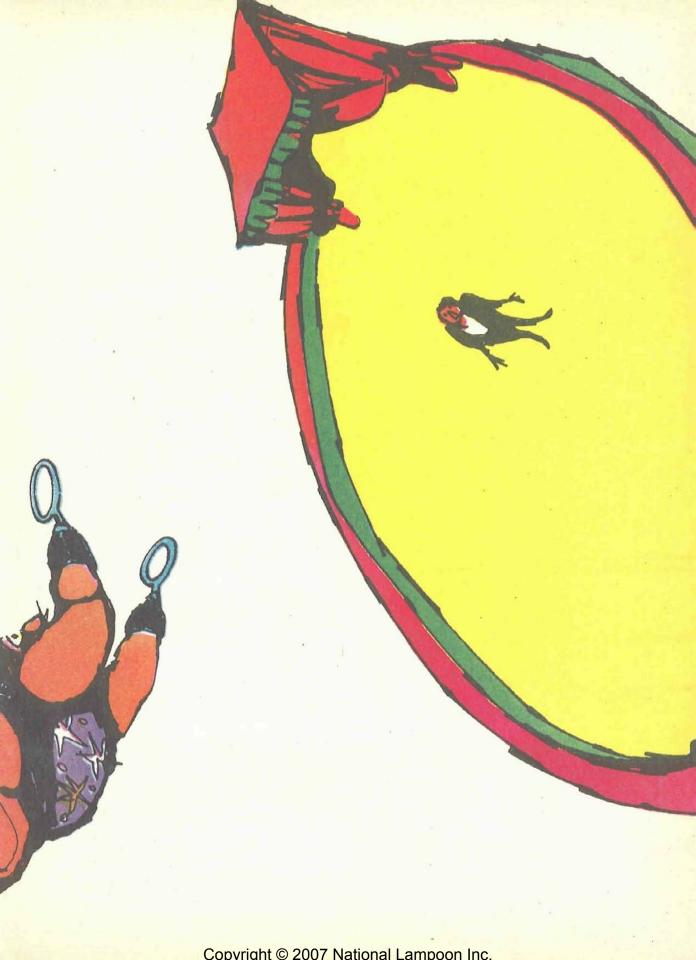


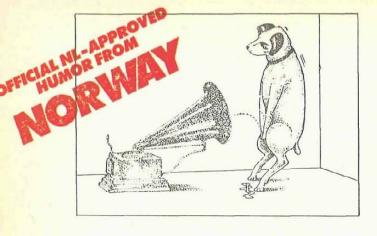


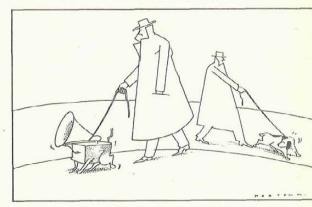
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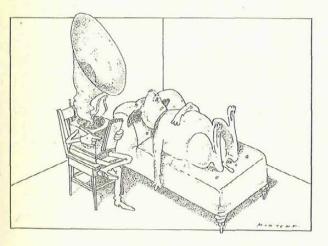






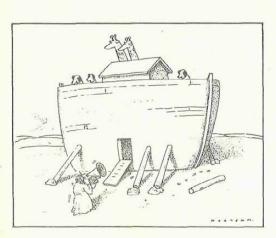


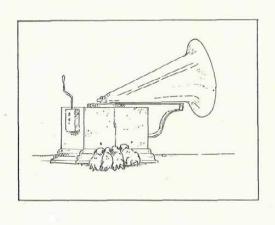


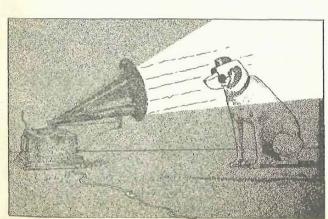


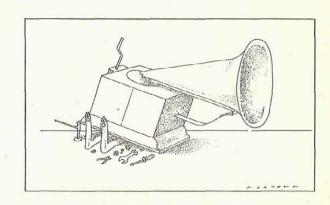
NORWEGIAN WOOF

by Morten M. Kristiansen

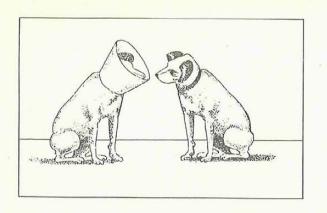


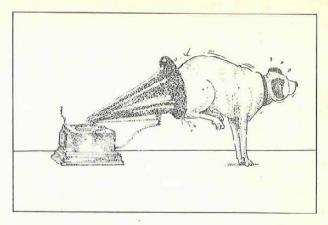


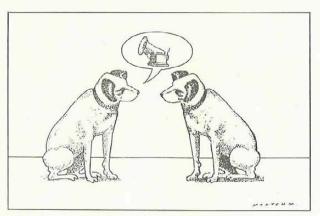


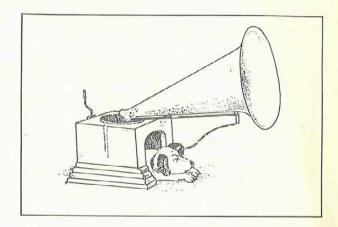


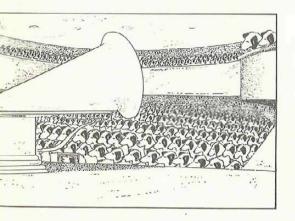
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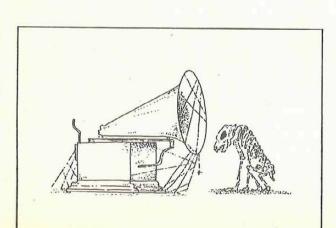


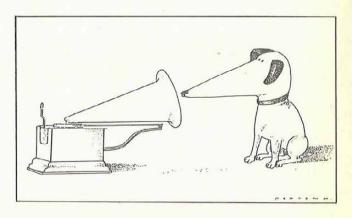


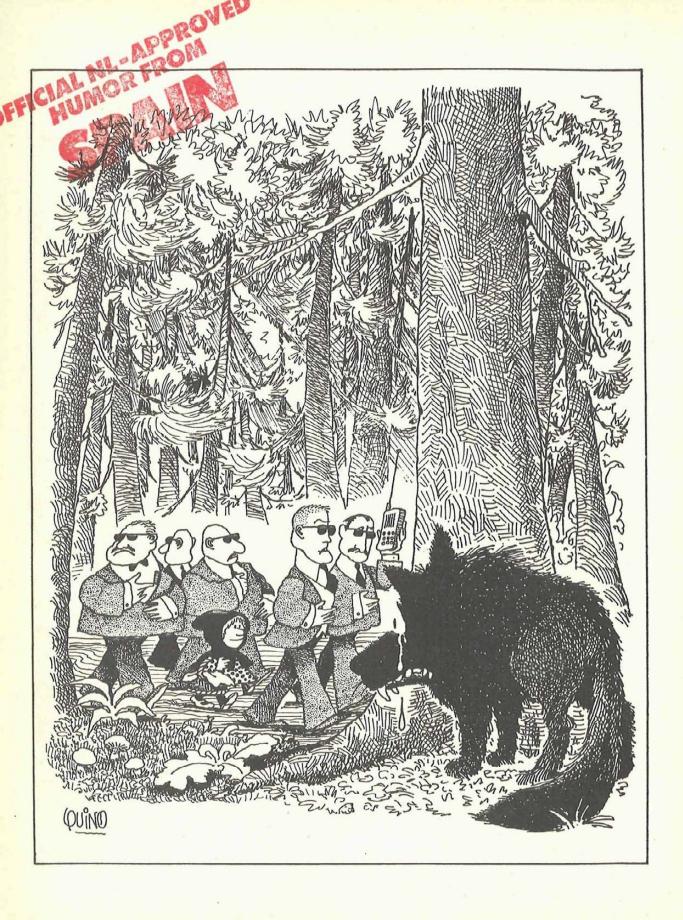


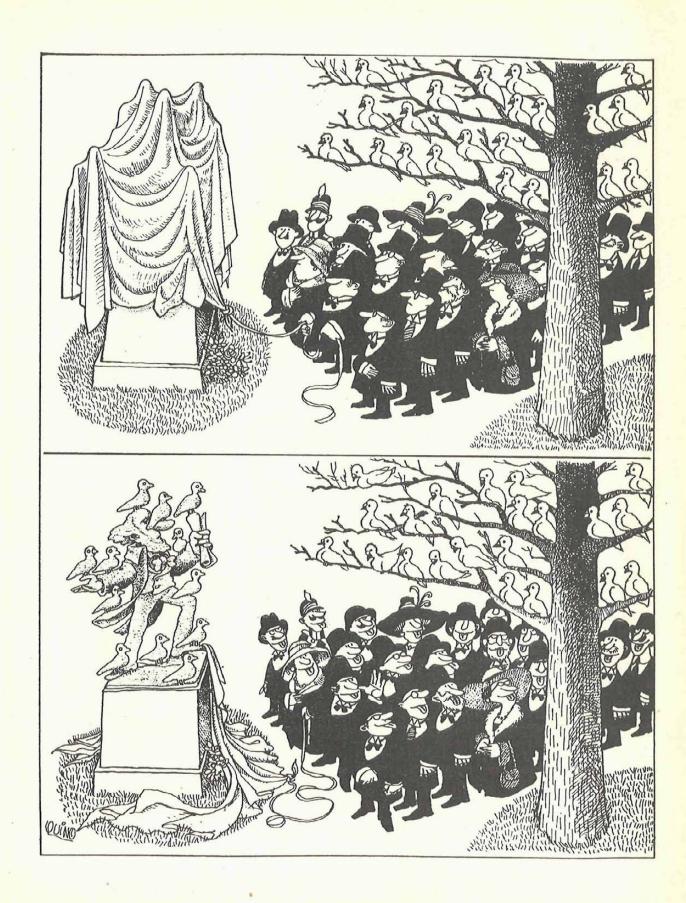


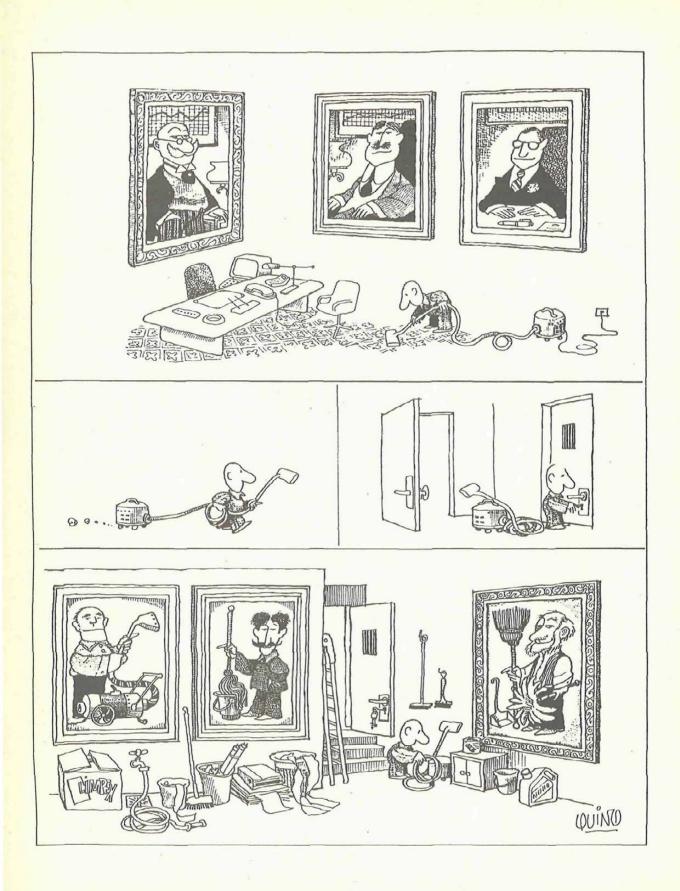


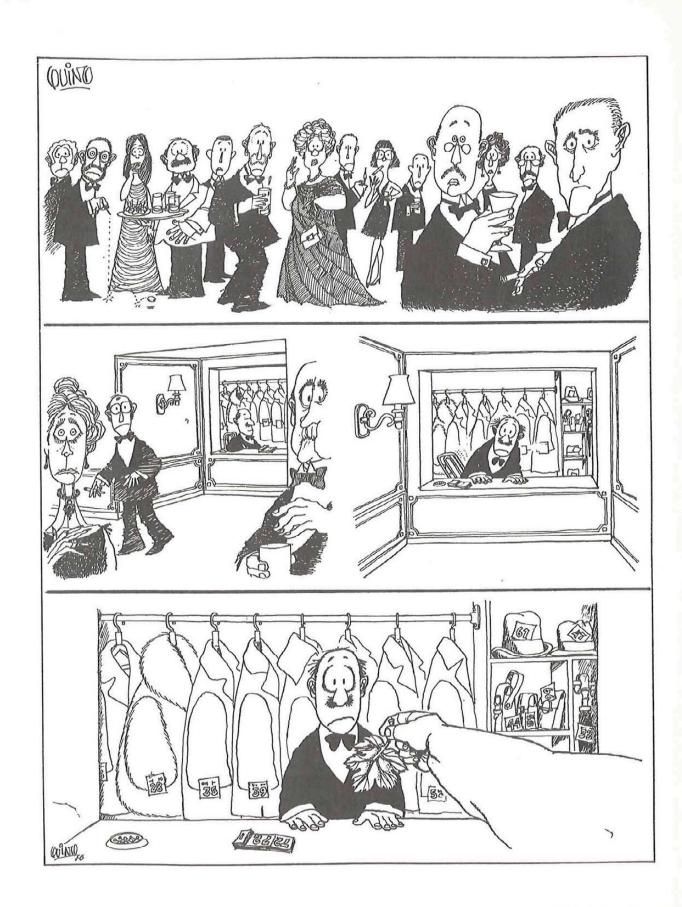




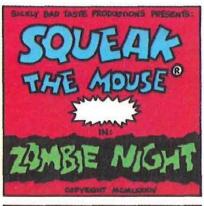




























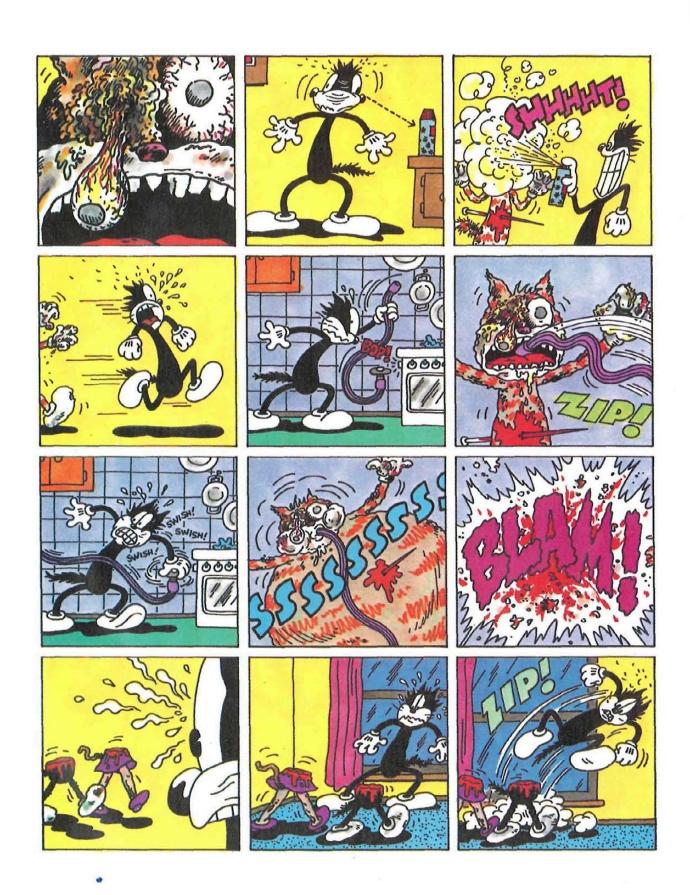


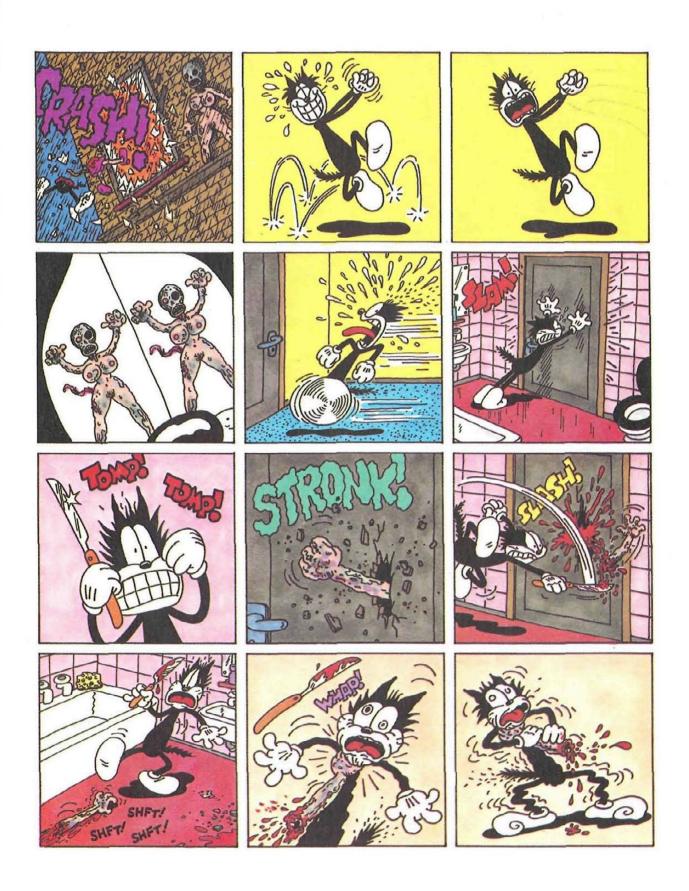




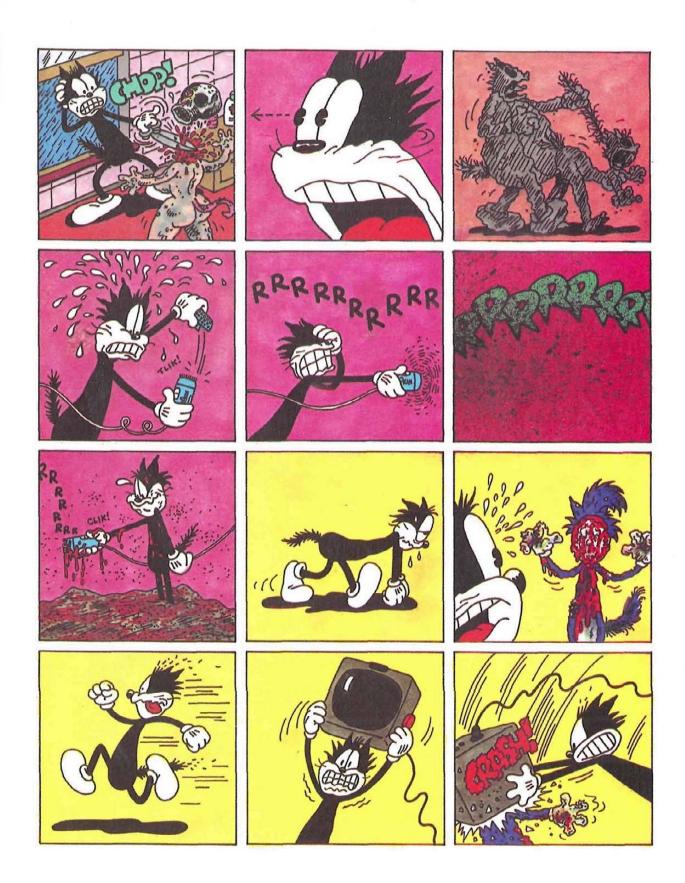


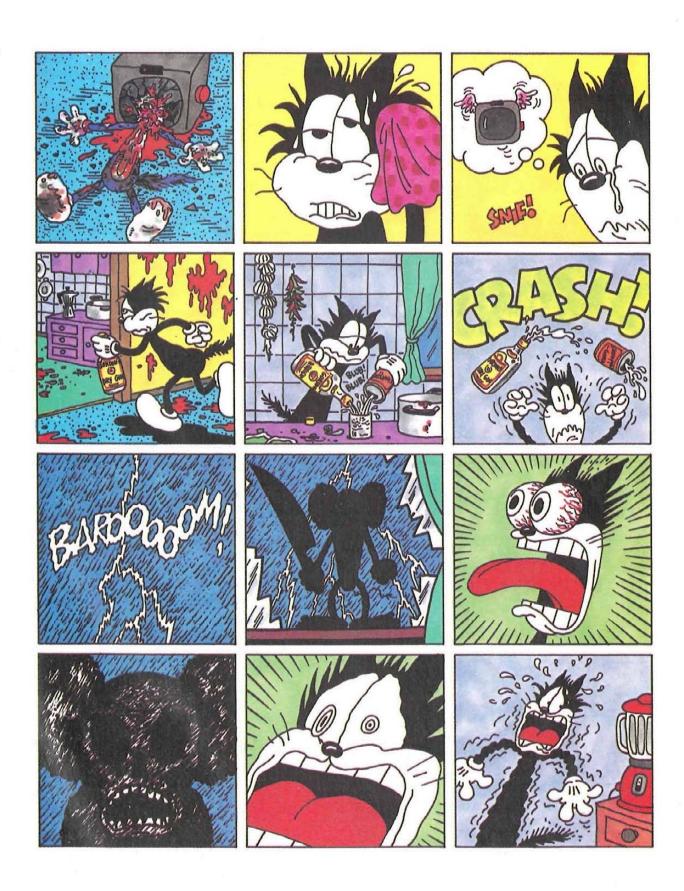




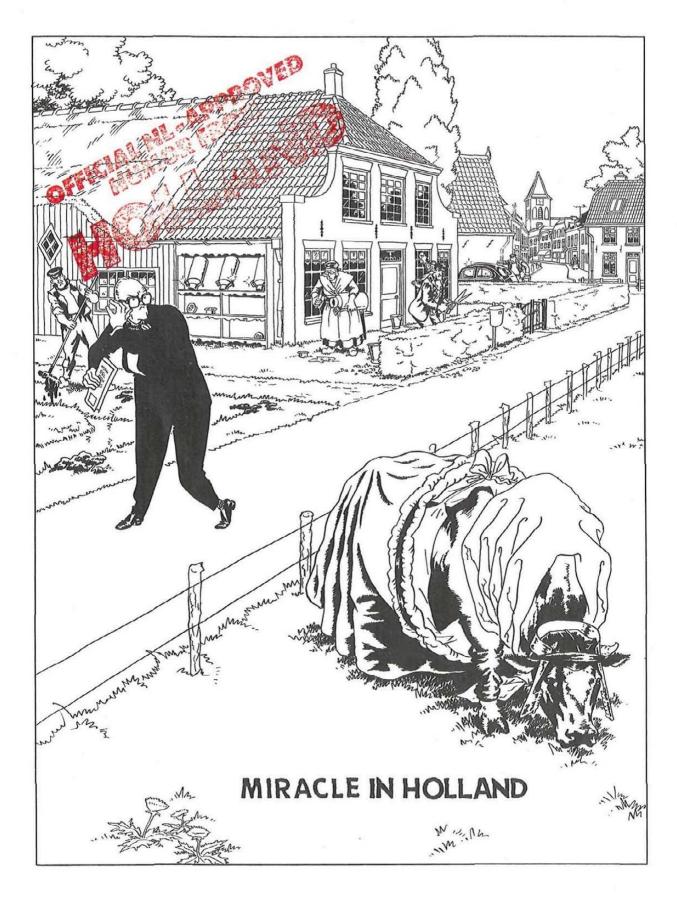








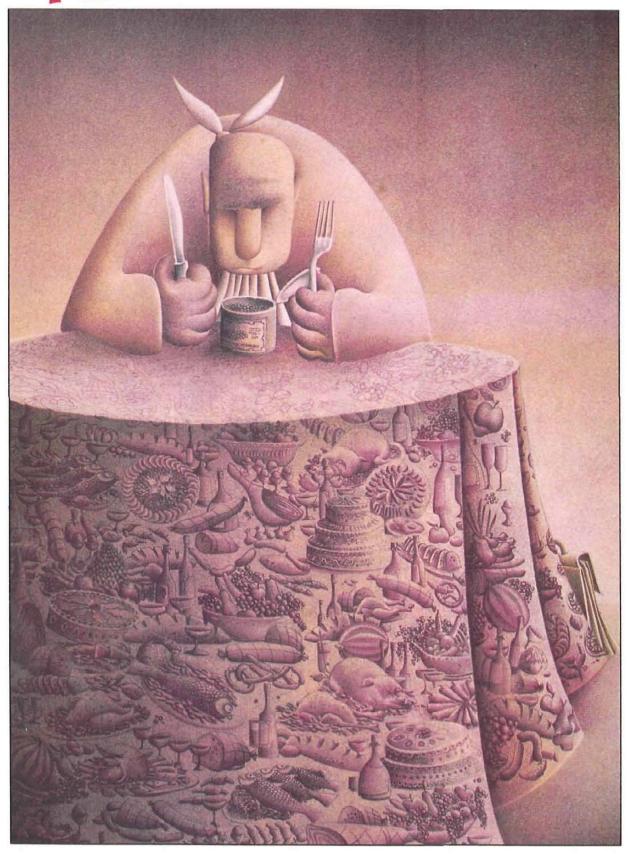




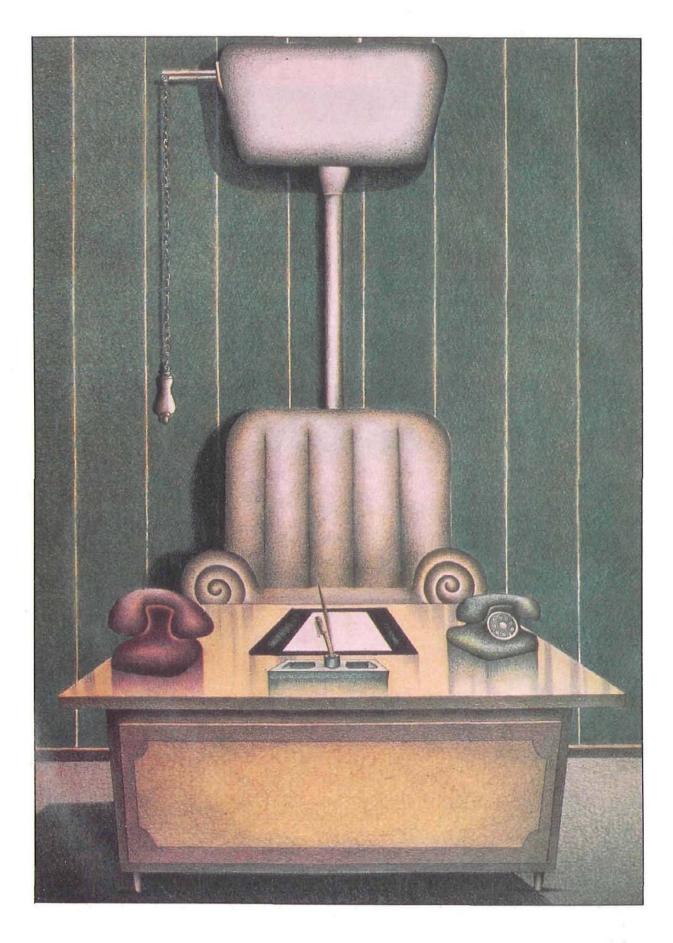




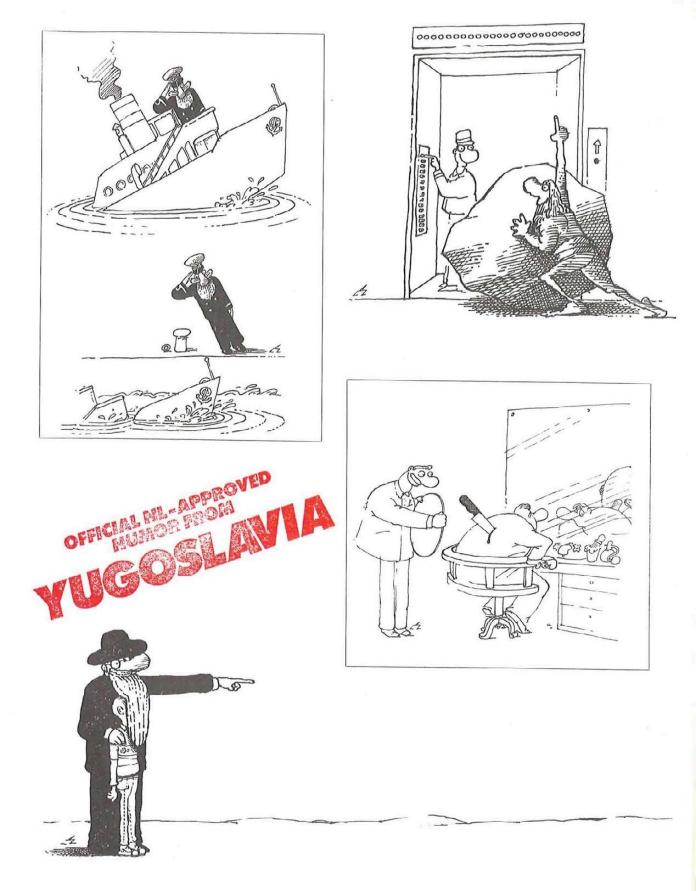
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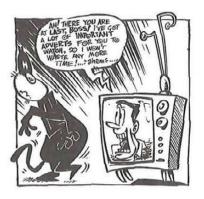
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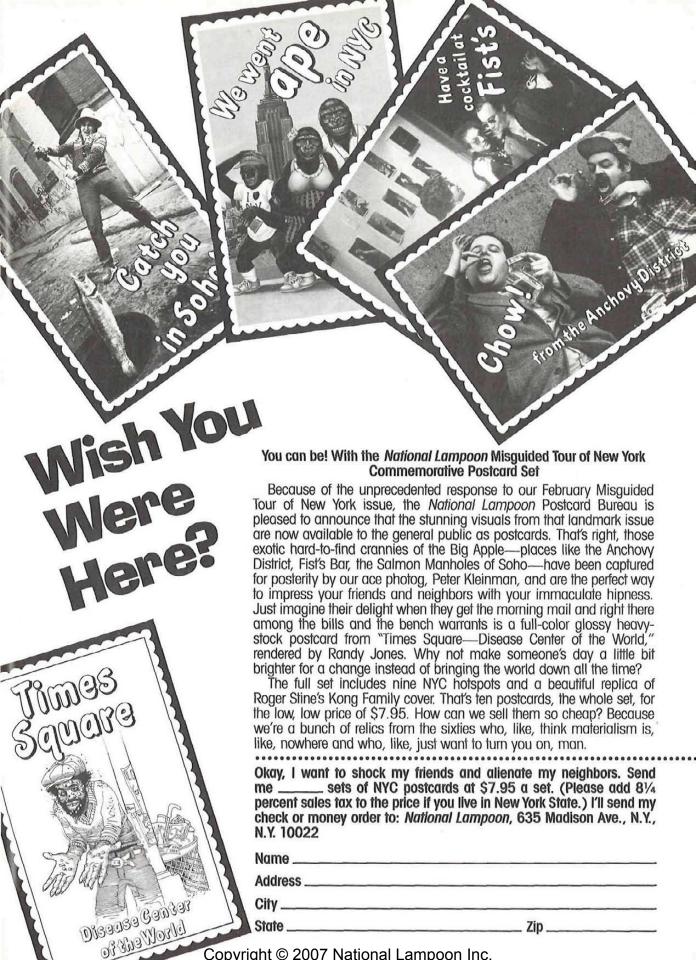




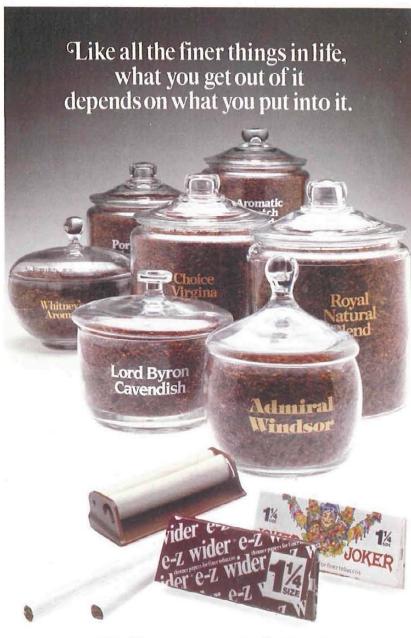












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THE INTERNATION

by Simon Carr and Willie Donaldson

ITALY

hich of us has not thrilled to the magic of Florence? Or to the perverse lure of Venice, which, like an old hedonist sinking under the weight of his own corruption, seems to be urging us to enjoy the present while we may?

THE MEN

Italian men, whether pinching bottoms, snatching handbags, or over-revving underpowered Vespas with their mufflers gone and mothballs in their gas tanks, have been calculated to be 46 percent betterlooking than their nearest European rivals, and 72 percent sexier. Indeed, the same electroencephalographic tests show that Italian men think about sex all the time. Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that the most common local activity is premature ejaculation (coitus is seldom successfully joined, and when it is, lasts on average for no more than nine and a half seconds). Since repressive clerical laws forbid the publication of premature ejaculation charts, the condition is probably endemic now, and part of the Italian male's genetic inheritance. It is the case, too, that Italian men wear lace body-shirts, which would be unacceptable in any other part of the world except Sydney.1

THE WOMEN

Italian women are exquisite for six months at the age of eighteen, but they come back from their honeymoons looking like Pavarotti. They do not believe in sex either before or after marriage, unless they are made to, or paid to. Female prostitutes in the rural areas are extremely family-minded, and before making an appointment with one you will be expected to show respect by drinking with her extended family and meeting her kitchen appliances. Female tourists from England, however, having experienced a succession of local premature

ejaculants, with whom they will often have had relations without realizing it, tend to become vulnerable to the clumsy advances and pasty faces of male English tourists.

WHERE TO GO

Rome: Flora da Palma's, Via di Cellino 895, Roma 101 (Flora offers special discounts to clergymen); Madam di Earl Spencer, 498 Via Augusta (above the leather boutique), Roma 118 (Madam offers English variations of dressage and the application of the crop); and Scarman's, the triumph of perpendicular architecture in the Piazza dei Monti at which generations of noblemen have deposited their heirs on their fifteenth birthdays.

Outside Rome: At 1919 Via Romana, Firenze, you will find Loggia Tressia (whose Masonic connections guarantee unusual opportunities). Nostradama di Dolores, Montefacon, 27 km north of Milan, though off the tourist track, amply repays a visit. Here a collective of politically active industrial prostitutes combined to buy the freehold of a fourteenth-century convent. After evicting the nuns they completely redecorated it. On Saturdays in summer they recreate the prem-jac scenes from Marat/Sade in the refectory. It is necessary to book, and customers are expected to participate.

WHAT THEY THINK OF US

The men believe that all English girls look like the Princess of Wales, and they would rather commit premature ejaculation with them than with any other nationals.

FRANCE

hich of us under twenty has not thrilled to the anything-goes philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre?

THE WOMEN

All the tarts in the Bois de Boulogne are Algerian transvestites, but their banter is both winning and witty. Actual French prostitutes are the rudest and most expensive in Europe. What you could get for £50 in London will cost you 1,000 francs in Paris. At La Grande Pipe, 4 Rue de Douai, Place Pigalle, the girls, unaware that our field investigators had excellent French, sneered at their technique and raucously called out their deficiencies to their colleagues working in adjacent rooms. Such establishments are best avoided, since the girls have breasts like fried eggs and enormous pubic bushes which reek of garlic. An exception to this rule are the black girls imported from Africa, who climax like firecrackers. As soon as penetration takes place they go BANG! Then they don't want to know you. Better to visit the famous Crazy Horse Saloon behind the Champs Élysées. Here you will not be sneered at by the artistes: you are expected to take them back to your hotel after the show, and you will not be expected to pay. They are all English, however.

Upper-class French girls combine sulkiness with notorious French chic and are even ruder than the tarts. They are famed for their prudishness throughout the world and will only accept dinner dates if accompanied by the concierge, a monosyllabic old crone who will see that they are home by midnight and whom you will be expected to tip heavily.

THE MEN

A certain historic animosity exists between the yeomanry of our two countries, but if you are of a certain age and class, your host will throw a cocktail party in your honor, which

¹The phenomenon of premature ejaculation explains why Italians peaked too soon in World War II, and has many political implications, as is shown by the number of governments since 1945.

L NAFF SEX GUIDE

your wife will be expected to attend without her knickers. As she arrives, lawyers, doctors, philosophers, and politicians will raise her skirt and politely compliment her on her bottom. After introductory martinis, the guests will disrobe on the word "Salut!" The host will then take your wife to the center of the room, where, to scattered applause, he will couple with her sophisticatedly.

Useful Phrases

Un couillon—a copper Un sale con anglais—a tourist

THE USA SAN FRANCISCO

hat gourmet traveler can fail to be impressed by San Francisco, city of contrasts? The sea mists rolling in from the great Pacific, the superb fish restaurants on the lower wharves, the fans of discipline who chain themselves to police cars to be dragged out on emergency calls. It may not be your heart you leave in San Francisco, but your genitals in the faucet of a fire hydrant.

THE WOMEN

Very few girls live in San Francisco, and those that do work nights and are unavailable for dinner. It is a scandal that back-street sexchange surgeons, often using ordinary unsterilized kitchen utensils, have done so little to balance the ratio of men to women.

THE MEN

Owing to the American enthusiasm for doing everything with great vigor, the bodies of most San Franciscan males are corrugated with the scars of dressage whips, and many refuse Novocain at the dentist, even for root canal work.

WHERE THE LOCALS GO

The Mincing Machine in East Bay Road will reduce your expectations by a third; Caesar's Place at 881 Bay View Plaza is a fine meeting place for cross-dressers and homosexual orgiasts; and Gay for a Laugh, two blocks north, has a worldwide reputation for nude disco dancing, first line of coke free, anal shows and domination cubicles on the top floor (especially good if you like blacks—or perhaps even better if you don't). Many bondage and discipline establishments register as churches and gain tax exemption. Wrath of God, Creationists, Seventh-Day Adventists, and some branches of the Mormon Church offer clients correction, but no sex (in

the Modern Mormon Church of San Francisco you may, for a contribution to the church's roof, be tied to a whipping horse and have your varicose veins normalized without anesthetic). Others offer religion in the sense that they worship sex with their congregations in secret bunkers.

THE LEGAL ADMINISTRATION

The unusual tolerance for sexual eccentricities goes right to the top of the state process. An ex-mayor of San Francisco is a gay, black, alternative comedian currently on death row for the unlawful killing of the secretary of the local branch of the Teamsters Union by the insertion of



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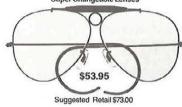
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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 83)

his whole fist into his anus—something specifically forbidden in the state's penal code since 1979, when the then district attorney led a rightwing backlash, resulting in a temporary return to traditional values.

LOS ANGELES

riving south out of San Francisco down Highway 66, we soon came to Los Angeles—City of Angels. Who could fail to be moved by the titanic vision of contemporary urban planners as we approach on the giant periferico?

THE WOMEN

Tribalism has taken such a hold on the young that the Silicone Generation is impregnable to the outsider. Contact may be established, however, with the over-thirty-fives. They are all mad, with leathery skins and mousetraps fitted in their genitals. With the help of certain chemicals, you will find that they'll do almost anything for an English gentleman. On the negative side, they will tell you what they are doing while they are doing it. This is for the benefit of their analysts and wearisome for the layman. The most willing girls are English starlets, too proud to wait at table. Whereas five years ago 73 percent of all prostitutes were undercover vice officers or sophomores putting themselves through college, today 73 percent of all prostitutes are English starlets. This activity hinders their film careers in the end, and many reach an uncomfortable crossroads when they are forced to choose between starring in a video nasty at the business end of a circular saw, or flying British Airways into Gatwick.

THE MEN

They are all very good-looking, very fit, very bronzed, very undemanding, very stupid, very successful, very rich, and very clear-skinned. This is no town for an Englishman.

WHAT THEY THINK OF US

A recently conducted poll suggests that the Princess of Wales could form a series of sexual connections in Los Angeles with very little difficulty. ho has not dreamed of the mysterious East? Of flying dragons and Ming commodes? The dawn coming up like thunder out of China? Of nimble little women scuttling like crabs across your body?

THE WOMEN

They are the most beautiful, the most pleasing in the world, and are commonly available for small change. Additionally, they do not talk, or, if they do, you cannot understand them. They are also built unusually small, and this makes them popular among Australians. Because they are the size of eight-year-olds, it is customary to order them three at a time. For the same reason that they are popular among Australians, they may also appeal to lower grades of Englishmen.

WHERE TO MEET THE BEST

Bangkok—At the government tourist office-recommended brothel on 3342 Yet Tut Phai Street, run by Madam Top, Expert Oriental Courtesans (or variegated prostitutes, as Kinsey and Whipple call them) will, for £8.50, anesthetize a patch on your scrotum with a chemical, make an incision with a scalpel, and blow the scrotum up to the size of a tennis ball with a drinking straw. The effect is unlike anything you may have experienced. At Pot Pulla's on Omaha Boulevard 436, electricians and Germans may see Thai dancing girls throwing and catching Frisbees in their vulvae.

Singapore—Most girls pass through the Piano Bar of the Imperial Hotel at least once a night. Avoid any vegetable show recommended by the driver of a bicycle rickshaw.

Seoul—In Korea, you are advised to confine your activities to GIs or WAFs, since North Korean anti-imperialist prostitutes have infiltrated the south with homemade devices fitted internally. When their victim has penetrated fully, a trembler device activates the fitting, which then closes like a badger

trap, serrated spikes flying into the customer's penis. The prostitute then snaps her legs together and turns 180 degrees, tearing the penis from the groin. Ordinarily, the customer dies of shock. The practice was quickly recognized as a potent weapon in the sex war, and the technique, together with the international patent, was smuggled out of South Vietnam in 1974 by agents working for a provisional wing of California feminists based in La Jolla.

Ho Chi Minh City—No sex is permitted here without government permission. In 1968 it was possible, for \$1,500, to see the wives of cabinet ministers extruding Ping-Pong balls from their genitals in private cabarets. This is no longer the case, and requests for this kind of entertainment may lead to lengthy periods of confinement in a septic tank.

GENERAL NOTE

Asian women west of Korea consider it impolite to climax in company, but in private they can insert—by a lifetime of yogic disciplines—up to five-eighths of their own bodies into their genitals. Kowloon call girls are bilingual, but this is extra.

THE MALE ELEMENT

Fiery local patriots who fight cocks and eat dogs. So pugnacious are they that, in the absence of a second party, they will beat themselves up and lay bets on the outcome. Be careful not to enliven their indignation with Western sarcasms.

WHAT THEY THINK OF US

They admire our ability to laugh at ourselves, particularly visiting literary men with their little potbellies, bald heads, and Amex cards. English women are less admired. Mai-Ling-Yet, a variegated prostitute trained in Haiku writing, comments:

Great ripples of Marbled fat stinking of red Meat—doggy breath: yuk!

They all admire the Princess of Wales, however.

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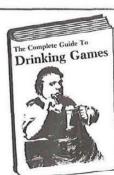


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SEXUALLY IRRELEVANT COUNTRIES

SWEDEN

THE WOMEN

heir most popular form of sexual activity is to be wired up to electrodes in laboratory tests. Research has now established that Swedish girls will not, after all, do anything. Indeed most of them have become so depressed by bringing their problems into the open and putting them on the laboratory table that they are virgins not only when they marry but also when they have their first baby. The Artificial Insemination scheme is improving the bloodline, however.

THE MEN

Cowed by the savagery of the social workers, they cannot, in any case, perform oral sex because their eyes are too close together.

STATE BROTHELS

These are clean, but units of currency have to be earned by doing community work on weekends.

GENERAL

Editorial writers on the Daily Telegraph now believe that the prevailing Swedish gloom has more to do with the tax structure than with the sexual revolution or the climate.

WHAT THEY THINK OF US

They admire Princess Anne.

RUSSIA

All the women in Leningrad look like Benny Hill.

YUGOSLAVIA

They do it in goatskin underwear with their great reeking women.

WEST GERMANY

The prostitutes are civil servants and expect you to do everything in triplicate.



SPAIN

Spanish men are indeed proud, and expect you to lavish compliments on their family. On meeting a Spaniard it is customary to say: "Hola, Pedro! Me gusteria pompom su hermana. Gracias."

THE THIRD WORLD

Everything they say about black men is true, but too far away.

IRELAND

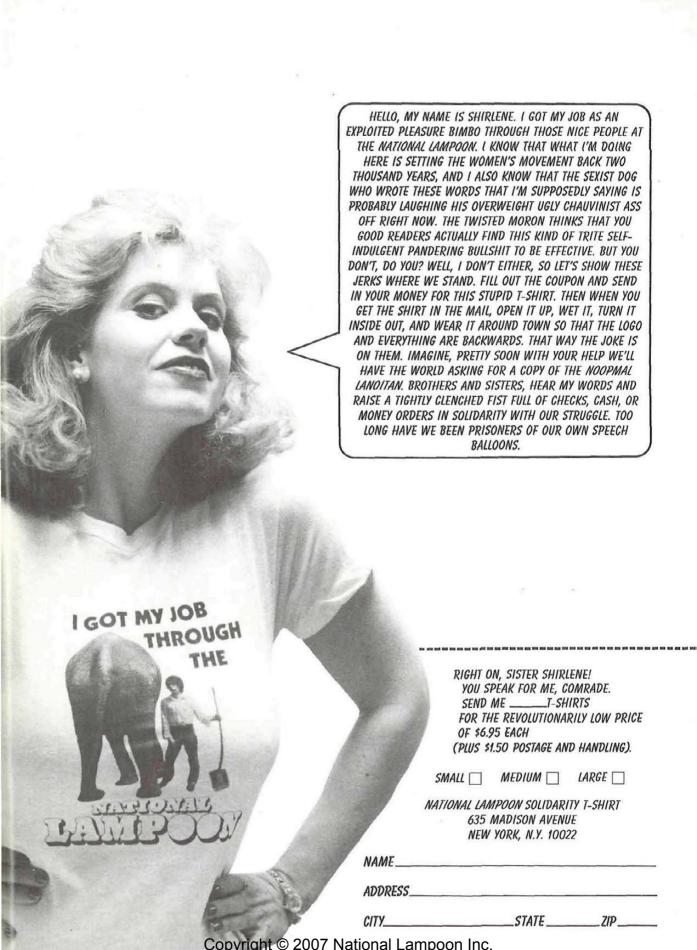
The population of Ireland never recovered from the great potato famine. All the remedial sex instructors, family planning officers, and traveling salesmen left for New York, leaving behind only a dim race memory of the appropriate mechanical steps involved.

NEW ZEALAND

In the great state brothel in underground Bulls, they use electric milking machines to relieve the sexual excesses of 900 simultaneous New Zealanders.

HAMPSHIRE

Eighty-nine percent of landowning women claim not to be married but to be loosely federated under the Matrimonial Property Act.



TRUE FACTS

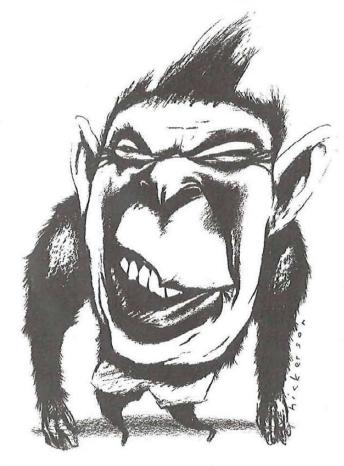


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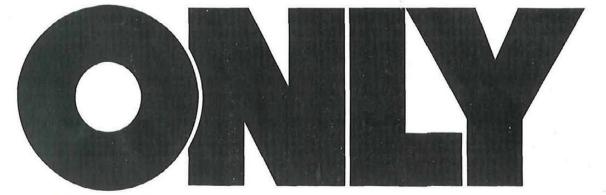
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COMING NEXT MONTH



A CELEBRITY ROAST

John Waters, the Sultan of Sleaze, tells us How to Become Famous!
Gasp at Toilet!, the shocking memoirs of a men's room attendant.
Enjoy Richard Belzer! rip into your least favorite celebs!
Flip over Mass Murderer Trading Cards!
Weep over Hollywood Reaper!
Be astounded by Lifestyles of the Acquaintances of the Rich and Famous!
Travel to Star Search with The Appletons!
Meet Morgan Fairchild, Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, Woody Allen, Mr. T,
Ronald Reagan, Larry Holmes, Eddie Murphy,
Dan Aykroyd, Orson Welles, Diane Keaton, and Irving Kaufman!!!





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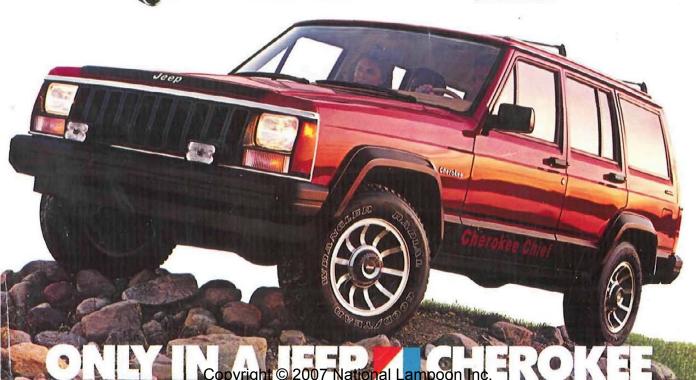
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